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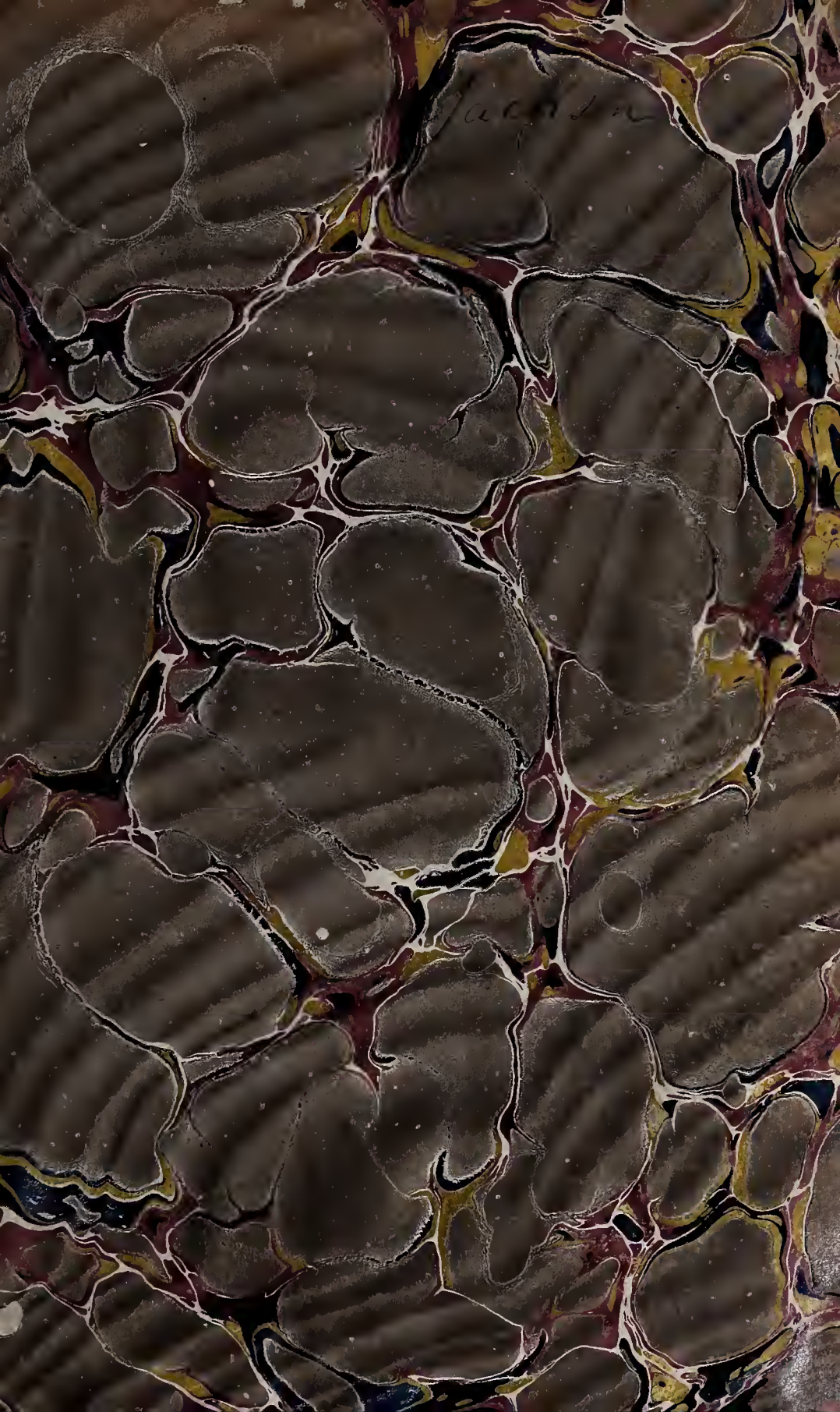
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THE
LIFE AND TIMES.
of
WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

BY
John Watkins, V. U. D.



Drawn by E. Howard

p 47

Engraved by J. Davies

*"Well does Great Britain merit the empire of the Sea, when the
humblest stations in her Navy, are filled by Princes of the blood."*

London:
FISHER, SON, AND JACKSON.
1831.

THE
LIFE AND TIMES
OF
"England's Patriot King,"
WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

WITH A BRIEF MEMOIR OF
HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ADELAIDE,
AND HER FAMILY.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES,
BY JOHN WATKINS, LL.D.

LONDON:
FISHER, SON, & JACKSON, NEWGATE STREET.

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ADDRESS.

A NEW Era has opened upon an astonished world: and that which a philosophic statesman of a former age contemplated as an object rather to be wished than expected, is now developed in all the reality of life—"A King of Great Britain, the most popular man in his day; and truly a PATRIOT KING at the head of a UNITED PEOPLE."

What the masterly hand of BOLINBROKE sketched as an ideal character, and a vision of virtuous excellence, this nation happily enjoys in the reign of WILLIAM THE FOURTH; of whom a more faithful portrait cannot be drawn than in the language of the same great writer:—

"A PATRIOT KING is the most powerful
"of all Reformers, for he is himself a sort of
"standing miracle, so rarely seen, and so little
"understood, that the sure effects of his appear-
"ance will be admiration and love in every
"honest heart—confusion and terror to every
"guilty conscience—but submission and resig-
"nation in ALL.

“ A new PEOPLE will seem to arise with a
“ new KING : innumerable metamorphoses, like
“ those which poets feign, will happen in very
“ deed ; and while men are conscious that they
“ are the same individuals, the difference of
“ their sentiments will almost persuade them
“ that they are changed into different beings.”

To trace the minute history of the august Personage in whom these lines of public excellence are all concentrated with surprising and almost prophetic accuracy, is a necessary and pleasing, but certainly not a very easy, undertaking. A great portion of the Life of the present Monarch of these realms has been spent in privacy amounting almost to seclusion. Yet, in that comparative obscurity, was the preparation making for the future benefit of mankind—as the streamlet glides silently along, till the current, increasing by the reception of subsidiary stores, swells into a broad and mighty river, opening a communication for the extension of trade and commerce, freedom and science, over the globe.

Within the period of sixty-six years, which the history of the Life of WILLIAM IV. comprises, Great Britain has borne a more distinguished part on the great theatre of the world, than any other nation, not even France excepted. The alienation of the American colonies from her

dominion, instead of ruining the Parent State, produced the contrary effect; and she was not only compensated, for her loss in the West, by the acquisition of an empire in the East, but she laid the foundation of a new one in the Southern hemisphere, on a continent where civilization, and even social life, had hitherto been unknown. At home also Britain has seen her capital enlarged threefold, and her population increased in proportion—her resources multiplied—her villages raised into towns—her towns into cities—and new improvements continually made, for the application of private industry, and the public benefit.

Though, amidst all this, Britain was forced to struggle for her political existence with the gigantic power of revolutionary France; yet, even out of that contest she arose with additional glory; and though her wounds were severe, she was still considered and respected as the arbitress of the fate of nations.

Having attained this unparalleled distinction, one thing remained to complete her high pre-eminence—that of a PATRIOTIC KING, to direct and improve the internal polity of the country. This, it is her fortune now to possess: and it is gratifying to observe, that the people duly appreciate what they enjoy, by co-operating, in every part of the empire, with their Sovereign,

in his designs for the general good. At this auspicious period, it is proposed to draw into one connected view, a record of the events, public and private, that have marked the times of WILLIAM THE FOURTH, from his birth to the present day, and to mark the progress of his fame while advancing to its immortal consummation.

The intended Memoir of our KING and his Age, will include a history of the British Navy for the last half century; an account of the great transactions, foreign and domestic, that have occurred within the same space of time; the most important subjects that have engaged parliamentary discussion, and in which his present Majesty, when a Peer, took an active part.

Nor will the name and virtues of her Majesty QUEEN ADELAIDE be either disregarded, or passed over in too transient a manner.

In addition to these prominent points, will be given many hitherto unpublished Anecdotes, Biographical Illustrations, and Epistolary Correspondence, throwing new and important light upon the general history of Europe, as well as upon the character of many personages who have shared in the public councils of England, or been distinguished in various departments of the national service.

May 30th, 1831.

THE
LIFE AND TIMES
OF
WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

FROM 1765 TO 1779.

EXTRAORDINARY men are usually born for extraordinary times. Of this, history furnishes numerous instances; and, among others, none more in point than that of our own age. The same year which gave birth to Napoleon Buonaparte, the subverter of thrones, produced Arthur Wellesley, their restorer. It is also no less remarkable that the death of the son of James the Second, which totally extinguished the political existence of the line of Stuart, should have occurred within four months after the birth of a prince destined to extend the blessings gained for Britain by WILLIAM THE THIRD.

Between the hours of three and four in the morning of the 21st of August, 1765, Queen Charlotte, the consort of George the Third, was delivered of her third child, at Buckingham House, in the presence of the Princess Dowager of Wales, and several ladies of the court; the

Lord Chancellor, and other officers of state being also in attendance in an ante-chamber, to attest the birth of the royal infant. At noon this "great event," as it was justly termed in the gazette, was announced to the public by the firing of the Tower guns, and in the evening there were splendid illuminations in different parts of the metropolis.

On the 28th, the Corporation of London went up to St. James's with the following address to the King:—

"Most gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's ever loyal and faithful subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly beseech your Majesty to accept our most sincere and dutiful congratulations on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the auspicious birth of another prince.

"The joyful event of an increase in your Majesty's illustrious family, will always be gratefully considered by us as a further substantial security to the civil and religious liberties of this your Majesty's free and native country.

"Every addition to your Majesty's domestic happiness fills our hearts with the highest pleasure and satisfaction: and fully confiding, that your Majesty's royal sentiments ever coincide with the united wishes of your faithful people, we gladly embrace every opportunity of testifying our joy, and laying our congratulations at your Majesty's feet.

"Permit us, therefore, Royal Sir, to assure your Majesty, that your faithful citizens of London, from their zealous attachment to your Royal House, and the true honour and dignity of your crown, whenever a happy establishment of public measures shall present a favour-

able occasion, will be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise councils as apparently tend to render your Majesty's reign happy and glorious."

The answer of the King was as follows:—

"I thank you for this dutiful address. Your congratulations on the further increase of my family, and your assurances of zealous attachment to it, cannot but be very agreeable to me. I have nothing so much at heart as the welfare and happiness of my people; and have the greatest satisfaction in every event that may be an additional security to those civil and religious liberties, upon which the prosperity of these kingdoms depends."

On the 18th of September the baptismal ceremony was performed by Dr. Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the grand council-chamber at St. James's Palace, when the royal infant received the name of WILLIAM-HENRY, after his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, who stood sponsor on the occasion, with his brother Prince Henry Frederick, and the Princess of Brunswick.

The curious, not to say superstitious, observers of times and seasons, days and years, could not help making their remarks on the circumstance, that the first three children of their Majesties were born in August, which month had proved particularly auspicious to the House of Brunswick. On the first of August, 1714, corresponding with the twelfth of the new style, the death of the last sovereign of the family of Stuart, Queen Anne, gave George the First peaceable possession of the throne. On the 11th of August, 1737, Augusta, the eldest child of Frederick, Prince of Wales, was born; and on the 1st of August, her husband, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, obtained the glorious victory of Minden over the French.

In addition to these coincidences, many more might have been drawn from history ; and none, perhaps, more worthy of notice than the fact, that Frederick, King of Bohemia, and his heroic consort Elizabeth, only daughter of James the First, from whom descended the present royal family, were born in August. If, again, there are any, in this enlightened age, who attach importance to such trivial coincidences, they may find some amusement in adding to the list the fact, that William the Fourth, and his august partner Adelaide, were both born in the month so propitious to their royal house.

The year 1765 was remarkably fatal to royalty, both in England and foreign countries. On the first of November died suddenly, at the age of forty-five, William Duke of Cumberland, the hero of Culloden and Fontenoy. He had been at court that day, with all the symptoms of good health : afterwards he drank tea with the Princess of Brunswick, at St. James's Palace. He then returned to his own house in Upper Grosvenor Street, to be present at a council which had been appointed to be held there that evening. As soon as he came in, he ordered coffee ; but when it was brought, he complained of a pain in his shoulder, desired to be laid on the couch, and, in less than twenty minutes, expired.

The Duke of Cumberland was the first of his family born in England ; on which circumstance he used to reflect with some degree of pride. When not more than eleven years old, he accompanied his father, George the Second, to a review. While passing along the line, one of the officers exclaimed to another, " What a *charming* boy !" This was overheard by the young prince ; but, mistaking the word " charming " for " German," he turned

quickly about, and said, "Gentlemen, you are wrong, I am not a German boy; I'm an English boy, and I beg you will never call me so any more."

The Duke became extremely popular; and he deserved to be so, as well for his public conduct as his private virtues.

When at the head of the army in Germany, he was particularly struck with the ability and valour displayed by a sergeant belonging to his own regiment. Having often noticed the gallantry, and made inquiries into the private character of the man, his Royal Highness took occasion, on an exploit performed by him, to give him a lieutenancy. Some time afterwards, this person, so favoured, entreated his royal patron to take back the commission, and restore him to his former station. Surprised at so extraordinary a request, the Duke demanded the reason; and was told by the applicant, that he was now separated from his old companions by his elevation, and could not gain admittance into the society of his brother officers, who considered themselves as degraded by his appointment. "Oh! is that the case?" said the Prince, "let the matter rest, and I will soon find a way to give you satisfaction."

The next morning his Royal Highness went on the parade, where he was received by a circle of officers. While in conversation, he perceived the lieutenant walking by himself. On this, the Duke said, "Pray, gentlemen, what has that officer done, that he should be drummed out of your councils?" Without deigning to wait for an answer, he went up, took the lieutenant by the arm, and in that posture of familiarity walked up and down the lines, followed with all humility by the whole staff, much to their own mortification, and the amuse-

ment of the privates. When the parade was over, Lord Ligonier respectfully requested that his Royal Highness would honour the mess with his presence that day. "With all my heart," replied the Duke, "provided I bring my friend here with me." His lordship bowed and said, "I hope so." After this no one presumed to treat the Duke's friend with contempt, but, on the contrary, all seemed eager to seek his acquaintance. He rose to the rank of a general; and, with more gratitude than taste, erected the gilded equestrian statue of his patron, which stands in Cavendish-square.

Some abuses having crept into the navy, particularly in the impress service, the Duke of Cumberland resolved to search into the truth of what had been reported. Accordingly, one morning, he went with an officer of rank, and both dressed as private sailors, to Wapping; where, entering a public-house, they desired the landlady to furnish them with a private room, having heard, since they came on shore, that the press was very hot. The treacherous hostess took the money with a low courtesy, and retired; but immediately sent for a press-gang, and related the whole story—observing withal, that one of the men was so fat, he was scarcely worth taking. The gang burst into the room; and, after a well-feigned resistance, the Duke and his friend suffered themselves to be dragged on board the tender, where they were roughly interrogated, and reprimanded for daring to resist his Majesty's officers. The Duke replied, and inveighed against them in sharp terms, for using men so cruelly: upon which he and his companion were ordered below. With this, the prince refused to comply; on which the captain of the tender, exasperated at his firmness, said they should soon know who he was—

and ordered them to be stripped and flogged. The Duke exclaimed, "Strip me, if you dare!" This was not to be endured: the captain struck his Royal Highness with a cane, which was the sign for his men to strip their victim by force; but on taking off his blue jacket, they perceived the star. The tables were now turned—the Duke declared himself; and the whole party fell on their knees imploring forgiveness. His Royal Highness ordered the captain to be secured, while he went below; where a dreadful scene of savage barbarity presented itself:—some were bleeding from the repeated lashes they had received, and others were gasping for life, from the want of air. The Duke immediately returned to town, and laid the whole case before the Admiralty, which for a season had a good effect.

The Duke was Ranger of the Great Park at Windsor, where he kept a number of labourers in constant employ; but instead of paying higher wages than others, he chose rather to give less than the neighbouring nobility and gentry, in order that no improper advantage might be taken of his example. But he sufficiently made up for this trifling deficiency, by ordering the workmen, every day, at noon, table-beer with bread and cheese; besides which, he gave them once a week a substantial dinner. This he used to call old English hospitality.

A nobleman, remarkable for his penuriousness, took the liberty one day to tell the Duke, that his Royal Highness could do very well without so many labourers, who must put him to a prodigious expense. The Duke heard him out, and then said, "To be sure, as you say, I might do without these poor people; but can they do without me?"

Scarcely had the Royal vault at Westminster closed over the remains of this patriotic prince, before it was

re-opened, to receive another branch of the Royal line, Prince Frederick William, the fourth brother of the King. He died of a dropsy, the 8th of December, in his sixteenth year. These breaches in the Royal House were shortly after succeeded by the death of Edward Duke of York, at Monaco, in Piedmont. He was one of the most accomplished princes in Europe; and his mind was well stored with general knowledge, which he increased by travelling, and making observations on whatever subjects came under his notice. The King felt the loss severely; but he had to endure many other trials of a painful nature, and such as required an uncommon exertion of fortitude. The agitated state of the metropolis, on account of the proceedings against Wilkes; the weakness and unpopularity of ministers; and the disturbances in the American colonies—shook the throne to such a degree, that men's hearts trembled for its safety. Amidst these external convulsions, the Royal Family exhibited a scene of harmony, and, like an oasis in the stormy desert, was calm and serene, while the surrounding horizon presented nothing but blackness and discord. Each returning year also gave an addition to this domestic happiness, by enlarging its circle.

On the 24th of September, 1766, the Princess Royal was born; on the 2d of November, in the following year, her Majesty was delivered of a fourth son, Edward, who became Duke of Kent; and on the 8th of November, 1768, the Royal line received a further extension by the birth of the Princess Augusta.

It might have been expected that this increase in the family, and the exemplary manner in which the royal household was conducted, would have brought the people to reason, and have made them ashamed of the delusive

arts by which they were instigated to mischief and outrage.

.. In order to allay the popular frenzy, and turn the current of public opinion into the peaceful channel from which it had been diverted by faction, the Queen adopted an ingenious expedient, which was both pleasing in itself, and beneficial to trade. On the 25th of October, 1769, being the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne, a drawing-room was held at St. James's Palace, by the Prince of Wales, and his sister the Princess Royal. The novelty of the spectacle gave it peculiar attraction, and the court was of course crowded with persons of the first distinction. The Prince was dressed in scarlet and gold, with the insignia of the Order of the Garter; on his right was the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, in blue and gold, with the Order of the Bath; next to him, on a rich sofa, sat the Princess Royal; and at her right hand, elegantly clothed in Roman togas, were the junior princes, William, his present Majesty, and Edward, the late Duke of Kent.

The appearance of so many fine children excited lively emotions in the company, who were still more delighted, and even surprised, at the grateful manner in which the Heir-apparent, and his sister, deported themselves towards the whole fashionable circle.

Such was the impression produced by this pleasing spectacle, that, with a similar view to conciliation, the Prince was again brought conspicuously before the public, by giving a juvenile ball and supper at Buckingham House, on the 15th of March, 1770.

Among the domestic virtues which distinguished George the Third and his Queen, there was none that reflected upon them so much honour as the manner in

which they brought up their young family. In the discharge of this duty, each parent took an active part. While the children were in the nursery, under the superintendence of Lady Charlotte Finch, mother of the present Earl of Winchelsea, the King visited them every morning and evening. When they grew up, he paid the closest attention to their health and improvement, by keeping them in constant exercise, regulating their diet, and placing about them proper persons for their instruction.

The three elder princes were all brought up together, and had the same ruler, Dr. John James Majendie, till the year 1771, when it was deemed expedient to form a separate establishment for the Heir-apparent and his brother Frederick, at Buckingham House, under the care of Dr. Markham and Dr. Cyril Jackson; while Prince William, now six years old, and Prince Edward being only three, continued at Kew. It was about this time that a circumstance occurred, which, though trivial in itself, is said to have created some amusement in the Royal household. The story found its way into the London papers, and, being characteristic of the late and present King, when in their childhood, it merits insertion here. The paragraph is thus worded: "The following are the particulars relative to the improper behaviour of the person who struck Prince William Henry. His Royal Highness, with the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburgh, and Prince Edward, were at play in one of the apartments, when the head of one of their drums being out, the young gentlemen prevailed on the attendant to get into the hoop, that they might draw her about. Prince William, who is full of humour, contrived to throw her down; when she, in her foolish resentment, flung him against the wainscot. The King, on being told of it, ordered her to go to

St. James's, and remain there till the return of Lady Charlotte Finch to town, as his Majesty did not choose to interfere in such matters. On the arrival of Lady Charlotte, she examined into the particulars, when another of the servants said that the accused attendant did not strike the prince. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being present, said, with great spirit, "Pray do not assert any such thing; you know she did strike my brother: but you are both Scotchwomen, and will say any thing to favour one another." This answer occasioned much diversion; but it serves at least to shew the early affection of the princes for each other.

We shall now leave the Prince of Wales and his brother Frederick to pursue their studies for the present, and barely observe, that the Earl of Holderness was chosen for their governor, who, with the consent of the King, solicited, as his assistant in this important office, M. de Salzas, a native of Switzerland. This gentleman had been private tutor in the family of a rich burgomaster in Holland, where he became known to Lord Holderness, when ambassador at the Hague. His lordship made him his private secretary, and brought him to England, which led to his present appointment. The King was so well satisfied with the conduct of M. de Salzas, and had so high an opinion of his judgment, that, some time after, he consulted him about the education of Prince William-Henry, and particularly upon the choice of a person best qualified to act as subgovernor to him and his brother Edward. M. de Salzas accordingly recommended to his Majesty, Colonel Bude, a native of the Pays de Vaud, who had been page to the Prince of Orange, and afterwards procured a commission in the Sardinian service. Lord Holderness supported the recommendation, and, in con-

sequence, Colonel Bude came to England, obtained a permanent residence in the Royal household, and was further rewarded with the rank of a general in the Hanoverian service. His qualifications for the important situation which he now held, were of the most substantial, extensive, and valuable nature. Besides his professional experience, he had a thorough knowledge of the mathematical sciences, and a familiar acquaintance with the ancient and modern languages. His manners were highly polished, his sense of honour was delicate, and his religious principles were founded on the firm base of unadulterated Christianity. His Royal pupils ever treated him with affectionate esteem; and when Prince William, after the peace, visited the continent, General Bude accompanied him, and returned with his Royal Highness to England.

Upon the formation of the establishment of the Duke of York, General Bude was appointed his private secretary, and he continued to enjoy his Royal Highness's warm friendship and entire confidence through life. The General was at all times admitted to the private circle of George the Third, with whom he frequently played at chess, as long as the King could indulge in his favourite amusement. He was also honoured by the kind attentions of the Queen, and all the members of the Royal Family, under whose friendly roof, in the Upper Lodge of Windsor Castle, he closed his long and virtuous career, at the age of eighty-two, on the 30th of October, 1818.

Dr. Majendie, the classical tutor of Prince William, had been employed to instruct the Queen in the English language, when she first came over from Germany; and he continued ever after to reside at Kew or Windsor, enjoying the confidence of their Majesties till his death in 1783. It has been supposed that he was a Frenchman,

or German, but this is a mistake; he was a native of Exeter, where his father, a Protestant refugee, settled, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes. The son was educated for the church, and was made canon of Windsor. Dr. Majendie was succeeded in the tutorship of the princes by his son Henry William Majendie, of Christ's College, Cambridge, an elegant scholar, and able mathematician.

The King, though his own education was far from being well conducted, possessed more general knowledge, particularly in the practical sciences, than the world gave him credit for. His memory was uncommonly tenacious; and what he once read, he seldom forgot. Geography and astronomy were his favourite studies, and, as he understood those sciences perfectly himself, he felt great pleasure in teaching them to his children.

But while his thoughts were occupied in forming proper arrangements for the most important object that can engage a parent's care, family troubles came upon the King in rapid succession. The first was, the marriage of the Duke of Cumberland with the widow of a private gentleman. His Majesty was highly offended with his brother; and he had reason enough to be so, considering the disgrace the Duke had brought upon himself just before by an intrigue with Lady Grosvenor, for which a verdict, with heavy damages, was returned against him in the court of King's Bench. Upon the discovery of this fresh indiscretion, the King interdicted the Duke and his consort from appearing at court. A message was also sent to Parliament, recommending a new legislative provision, to restrict any of the Royal Family from contracting marriages without the consent of his Majesty and his successors.

This produced the Royal Marriage Act, which, however, did not pass without a violent opposition in both houses; and it must be owned, that the arguments against it were far stronger than those adduced in its support. To prohibit a man, said the dissidents, from contracting a marriage during his whole life, or, which amounts to the same thing, to render his entering into that state dependent upon the arbitrary will of another, is a stretch of power incompatible with any human legislation.

Upon this, the Duke of Gloucester, regardless of his brother's displeasure, made an open declaration of his marriage with the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, which had taken place privately five years before.

At the very time when this bill was in its progress through parliament, a tragical scene, in proof of the evil effects of political marriages, was displayed in Denmark, where, through the mental imbecility of Christian the Seventh, his consort, Caroline Matilda, sister to the King of Great Britain, suffered every possible injury from the Queen Dowager, Julia Maria. This woman, who was only the mother-in-law of Christian, taking advantage of his weakness, seized all the power into her own hands, with a view to set aside the issue of Caroline Matilda, in favour of her own son Frederick. The young queen, on a charge of treason, was thrown into the castle of Cronenburgh; and two ministers of state, Struensee and Brandt, were tried and beheaded, as her accomplices. Caroline Matilda would have suffered also, had it not been for the interposition of her brother. As soon as the King was apprised of his sister's danger, he sent orders to his ambassador, at Copenhagen, to demand the liberation of the Queen: which, however, was not effected, till a squadron arrived to enforce compliance;

and then she was conveyed to Zell, where she died three years afterwards of a broken heart.

The shock which the King sustained by the sufferings of his sister, was rendered more painful by the death of his mother, the Princess Dowager of Wales, on the 9th of February, 1772. She had long been in a declining state, and her disorder was increased by this very marriage, to which, from the beginning, she had as great an aversion as her daughter. The King and Queen used to visit her every evening, at eight o'clock; but, when she grew worse, they went at seven, pretending they mistook the hour. The night before her death, they were with her from seven to nine; during which time she kept up the conversation as usual; and when the physician said her pulse was more regular than usual, she answered, "Yes, and I hope I shall have a good night's rest." She expired about six in the morning, without a word or a groan.

Soon after this event, their Majesties left the Old Lodge at Richmond for their Palace at Kew, which continued to be their principal residence several years, on account of its convenient distance from town, and the benefit of its situation for the health of the children, who were now, by the birth of the present Duke of Sussex, increased to nine in number. It was at this time that the King employed Zoffany, who then lived at Kew, to paint a large picture of the family. The artist accordingly made his sketch, attended two or three times, and went on finishing the figures. Various circumstances, however, interposed, and prevented him from proceeding as speedily as he wished. His Majesty was sometimes engaged in matters of more consequence. At another time, Her Majesty was too busy to sit. Again,

some of the Princesses were unwell; or the Princes could not be spared from their studies. Thus the completion of the picture was retarded, when a messenger came to inform Zoffany that another Prince was born, the present Duke of Cambridge, and that of course he must be introduced into the group. This was not easy; but, after taking up much time, it was done with great ingenuity. Scarcely, however, had these adjustments been made, before a second messenger arrived, to announce the birth of a Princess, now Duchess of Gloucester, and to acquaint the artist that the illustrious stranger must have a place on the canvass. This was impossible, without a new arrangement. One half of the figures, therefore, were obliterated, in order that the grouping might be closer, to make room for the Princess. To do this properly, was the business of some months, but before it was finished, a letter came from one of the maids of honour, informing the painter that another stranger had just arrived, for whom a place must be found. "Oh, oh! God bless my soul," exclaimed Zoffany, "this is too much; if they cannot sit with more regularity, I cannot paint with more expedition, and must give it up." The artist, however, contrived to introduce Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia, and then expedited the work as fast as possible, to avoid another intrusion.

In the spring of 1776, an alteration took place in the department of education, as far as related to the two elder Princes. The Earl of Holderness, for some reason never yet explained, relinquished the governorship; and M. Salzas, much against the inclination of the King, followed his lordship's example. Dr. Markham, who had a few years before been made Bishop of Chester,

gave up the tutorship ; as also did Dr. Jackson. Lord Bruce succeeded the Earl of Holderness ; Dr. Hurd, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, took the place of Dr. Markham ; and, in the room of Dr. Jackson, came in Mr. William Arnald, of Cambridge, who not long after was made Canon of Windsor.

The tuition of Prince William continued under the same directors, only Mr. Arnald became the coadjutor of Mr. Henry Majendie ; and as his Royal Highness had evinced a decided predilection for the naval profession, his education was now pursued with a view to that object. The King was pleased with this spirit of his son, and, having from his own early youth paid particular attention to the theory of nautical science, he gladly took an active part in the instruction of the Prince.

The following characteristic sketch of this hope of Britain was drawn by the ingenious Mrs. Chapone, niece to Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Winchester, who had been the tutor of George the Third. In a letter written at Farnham Castle, on the 20th of August, 1778, she says—

“ Mr. Buller, (afterwards Bishop of Exeter, who married one of the bishop’s daughters,) went to Windsor on Saturday ; saw the King, who inquired much about the Bishop ; and hearing that he would be eighty-two next Monday, ‘ Then,’ said the King, ‘ I will go and wish him joy.’ ‘ And I,’ said the Queen, ‘ will go too.’ Mr. Buller then dropt a hint of the additional pleasure it would give the Bishop, if he could see the Princes. ‘ That,’ said the King, ‘ requires contrivance ; but if I can manage it, we will all go.’ On the Monday following, the Royal party, consisting of their Majesties, the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburg, Prince

William-Henry, the Princess Royal, and Princess Augusta, visited the Bishop. The King sent the Princes to pay their compliments to Mrs. Chapone; himself, he said, being an old acquaintance. 'Whilst the Princes were speaking to me,' adds the lady, 'Mr. Arnald, the sub-preceptor, said, These gentlemen are well acquainted with a certain ode prefixed to Mrs. Carter's *Epictetus*; if you know any thing of it——. [This ode was written by Mrs. Chapone.] Afterwards, the King came and spoke to us, and the Queen led the Princess Royal to me, saying, This is a young lady, who, I hope, has much profited by your instructions [the *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind*,] more than once, and will read them often: and the Princess assented to the praise which followed, with a very modest air. I was pleased with all the Princes, but particularly with Prince William, who is little of his age, but so sensible and engaging, that he won the Bishop's heart, to whom he particularly attached himself, and would stay with him while all the rest ran about the house. His conversation was surprisingly manly and clever for his age—yet, with the young Bullers, he was quite the boy; and said to John Buller, by way of encouraging him to talk, Come, we are both boys, you know.—All of them shewed affectionate respect to the Bishop; and the Prince of Wales pressed his hand so hard, that he hurt it.' ”

The American war had been raging three years, when France, after acting a most insidious part, threw off the mask of friendship, and soon after compelled Spain to join in a confederacy, which ultimately brought ruin on both countries. Very remarkable, and almost oracular, was the laconic answer of George the Third to the ambassador Noailles, when he applied for his passports

in person : " It is what I have long foreseen ; but it is your master that will feel the consequences."

The crisis, however, was awfully alarming, for, besides three open and powerful enemies, Britain had to struggle against the treacherous practices of other states, who, while they affected to be neutral, carried on war in disguise. Nor was this all the danger to which the nation was exposed. Her main stay and bulwark, the navy, had sustained a severe injury by the indecisive action fought off Ushant, on the 27th of July, 1778, between the English fleet, under Admiral Keppel, and the French, commanded by D'Orvilliers.

Each claimed the honour of a victory, and perhaps with equal reason, for neither one nor the other carried off any trophy from the battle. The return of the English without having taken or destroyed a single ship, was a thing so unusual, that the people became clamorous : but, unfortunately, their resentment was made instrumental to factious purposes, by creating discord in a service that depended for success upon union and subordination. Government inclined to censure the commander-in-chief, probably because he was connected with the opposition ; and, on the other hand, that party threw all the odium upon Sir Hugh Palliser, the second in command, because he favoured the administration. A court-martial was held on each, and both were acquitted ; but, as Keppel had the populace on his side, his acquittal became a triumph.

Such was the state of humiliation to which the pride and boast, the glory and strength, of Britain was reduced, when Prince WILLIAM-HENRY, on the 15th of June, 1779, entered as a midshipman on board the Prince George, of ninety-eight guns, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Robert Digby, at Spithead.

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1779 TO 1781.

ON the 16th of June, the Prince George got under weigh, and proceeded down the Channel to Torbay, where the grand fleet, consisting of thirty-seven sail of the line, under the command of Sir Charles Hardy, lay at anchor. On the 18th of July, the whole, in three divisions, made sail to the westward, in order to prevent the junction of the French and Spanish squadrons commanded by D'Orvilliers and Cordova. But, though it does not seem that there was any want of vigilance on the part of the English admirals, the Spaniards succeeded in getting into Brest.

Soon after, the combined fleets, amounting to sixty-six line-of-battle ships, quitted the harbour, and entered the British channel, forming one great chain from shore to shore, sweeping all before them, and directing their course for Plymouth. The appearance of this formidable armada, the like of which had never been seen in our seas since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, spread terror along the western coast, and throughout the country. The most fearful apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the great naval arsenal of Plymouth, off which the combined fleets came on the 17th of August, in two divisions, sailing in a line ahead.

Just as they passed the Edystone, there came into the Sound a fleet from Portsmouth with stores ; which,

strangely enough, the enemy suffered to enter without molestation, though the capture could not have been prevented. The *Ardent*, of sixty guns, however, which had the charge of this convoy, mistaking the enemy's ships for the fleet of Admiral Hardy, ran towards them, and was taken after firing one or two broadsides.

While nothing less was expected than a landing either at Cawsand or in Torbay, to the astonishment and joy of the inhabitants, the enemy disappeared; having effected nothing beyond the single capture of the *Ardent*, which grand achievement was announced by the French government in a public report, similar to our extraordinary gazette. In returning down the Channel, the combined fleets and the English came in sight of each other at break of day, on the 31st of August, off the Lizard. The weather was hazy and squally, so that the two fleets soon passed each other; but when it cleared up, a running action took place, during some hours, without any loss on either side, and before the next morning not a ship of the enemy was to be seen. Though this was a flight, it could not be justly called an inglorious one; considering the disparity of force between the two fleets, and the defenceless state of the whole western coast from the Land's End to the Isle of Wight. So unprepared was Plymouth for any resistance, that had that advantage been taken of the absence of the Channel fleet which was expected, and which was doubtless at first intended, the most important post in the kingdom would have become a heap of ruins. Why this work of destruction was not effected, under circumstances so favourable to the invaders, was a question which every one put, and which nobody could answer. Various conjectures were formed, but at last it was ascertained that England was

indebted for its deliverance partly to the sickness occasioned by the over-crowded state of the Spanish ships, and still more to the want of that cordiality among the confederate leaders, without which no combined movements can be carried into effect.

Upon this portion of our history, some light is thrown in the memoirs of an extraordinary adventurer, who went by the name of the Count de Parades. Just before the war broke out, this man visited England, for the purpose of making such observations as might be of service to France. Having examined every thing, and taken notes of whatever he thought important, he returned to Paris. Upon communicating to Sartine, the minister of marine, the information he had obtained, he received much commendation for his zeal, and was directed to renew his inquiries.

Accordingly, Parades came again to England, procured further intelligence, and formed connexions for a settled correspondence during the war. On his arrival in London, he engaged a man in his service for a certain sum of money down, and one hundred pounds a month. This worthy introduced Parades to two Jews, who entered into the concern, and quitted London with him on a third tour to the coast. The morning after his arrival at Plymouth, he visited the citadel. Having made his observations, and taken some sketches, accompanied with his guide, a sentinel observing two strangers at an early hour, whom he had not seen enter, informed the guard. A sergeant then came to Parades, asked what he did there, and observed—he might have known that nobody was permitted to visit the place. Parades answered, that he was ignorant of it, being a stranger, and that his guide, who was one of the town, should not have brought

him thither. "Seize that rascal," said the sergeant to his soldiers, and carry him to the guard-house." Immediately they took him by the collar, and were leading him off, when Parades put his hand into his pocket, took out two guineas, gave them to the sergeant, and said, "Pray, let the poor fellow go ; no doubt, he did it for the want of knowing better." The money having blinded the eyes of the sergeant, he said, "Turn that fellow out, and don't let him come here again." Then addressing Parades, he said, "Perhaps your honour would wish to see the fortress ; if so, I will conduct you." Here Parades continued two or three hours, making his observations ; after which the obliging sergeant accompanied him to his inn, where two guineas more secured his friendship.

The Count's principal agent was not less active. He hired a vessel, the master of which engaged punctually to obey the orders of the French ministry, on condition of being paid eight hundred pounds a month, for himself and crew. Afterwards it was found more convenient to purchase a new vessel of fourteen guns ; and the captain informed the Count, that he could gain over a man who held an office under the government, and was able to render him essential services. This person being sounded, proved compliable, and was rewarded with one hundred and fifty pounds a month, to furnish his employers with copies of the secret orders issued by the Admiralty, and of the despatches received there.

The first intelligence obtained from this quarter was, that thirteen ships of the line were to be fitted out at Plymouth, destined for America, under the command of Admiral Byron. The English minister, being informed that a squadron of twenty-five ships had sailed from Brest, gave orders to Admiral Keppel to put to sea from

Portsmouth with all the vessels there, which amounted to twenty, to watch the French fleet, but without engaging them, in order to favour Byron's voyage, by keeping them in check. As soon as Byron had gotten out of their reach, Keppel was to return to Portsmouth, to complete his equipment. Intelligence of all this was despatched to M. de Sartine, and by him to the Count de Orvilliers : but the latter doubting the authenticity of it, and fearing he should have thirty-two ships to engage instead of twenty, remained idle ; and thus gave Byron an opportunity to proceed on his voyage.

After the affair between Keppel and D' Orvilliers, the enterprising Parades turned his thoughts to the seizure or destruction of Plymouth. For this purpose, he renewed his intimacy with his old acquaintance, the sergeant ; and having made another survey of the arsenal and coast, he sailed for Portsmouth, and anchored off Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight. Deeming it of importance to gain possession of Hurst Castle, which commands the entrance of the Needles, he proposed to his captain, without acquainting him of his real design, to prevail on the garrison to deposit there some smuggled goods. This, for a certain share of the profits, was readily agreed to ; and thus he obtained admission for any number of troops in disguise by night, whenever their services might be required.

Parades now laid his plans before M. de Sartine, by whom they were approved, and the projector was amply rewarded. He required only four thousand men for Plymouth, fifteen hundred for Hurst Castle, two ships of the line, two frigates, and the same number of fire-ships. But the French minister thought the scheme too narrow. An army of thirty thousand men, therefore, was assembled ;

and, instead of two millions of livres, as proposed by Parades, fifty millions were expended in doing nothing. The fleet was equipped, but, instead of repairing to Plymouth, the time was spent in waiting for the Spanish squadron from Cadiz : and when at length it did arrive off the harbour, the officers appeared to be all united against the commander-in-chief, to whom they had conceived a dislike, because he had rank in the army ; so that nothing was attempted.

Thus ended a mighty enterprise, that was designed to blot England out of the map of Europe ; or at least to take from her the sovereignty of the seas—but, *Parturiunt montes ; nascetur ridiculus mus.*

It must be allowed, however, that the scheme was not a visionary one ; and, had it been as vigorously conducted, as it was well contrived, there can be little doubt that an inglorious and humiliating peace must have ensued. Providentially, the designs of the enemy were frustrated, but not by the vigilance of the British ministers ; or by the measures of defence which it was their duty to have provided, knowing, as they did, that the most desperate malignity against England pervaded the councils of the French government. Instead of carrying on a honourable warfare, the cabinet of Versailles, which all along had been acting a treacherous part in the support of the Americans, now stooped to the vilest expedients for the annoyance of a power, that, so far from giving it any provocation, was only blameable for its imprudent forbearance. Spies were spread throughout the kingdom. English smugglers were armed with French commissions to commit acts of piracy ; incendiaries were employed to set fire, not only to the national dock-yards, with their shipping and storehouses, but even

to those of the mercantile ports. Temptations of the most powerful nature were held out, to allure men of talent from their allegiance ; and to gain them over to the service of the Americans, or their allies. It is to be feared that Sartine was too successful in this nefarious practice ; and that there were persons so lost to all virtue, as to receive the wages of iniquity, under the miserable self-declusion, that they were assisting the cause of freedom.

That the French minister of marine and his colleagues were unprincipled enough to bribe men in public employment to betray their trust, has been fully proved. But the degradation of that government did not stop there. Estimating the moral dignity of others by his own corrupt mind, Sartine had the boldness to make an experiment upon the honesty of one of the brightest ornaments of the British navy. Admiral Sir George Bridges Rodney having fallen into pecuniary difficulties, chiefly through a severely contested election, was under the necessity of seeking a refuge in France from the importunity of his creditors. He was there when hostilities commenced, but could not venture to return home, on account of the embarrassment which had driven him abroad. To his applications for employment, the ministry at home paid no attention ; though, if the services of such a man were ever wanted, it was at that critical period, when the navy was in a most dislocated condition.

Sartine, who knew the character and circumstances of Sir George Rodney, flattered himself, that the veteran's integrity might be overcome by the seductive influence of that powerful charm, which the crafty statesman had never yet found to fail when skilfully applied. This was a case, however, that required peculiar dexterity in the management, and an agency very different from any

that Sartine was in the ordinary habit of employing on such occasions. Among the admiral's friends at Paris, the principal was the Marechal Duc de Biron, a nobleman who stood deservedly high in the estimation of the public, as well as in the favour of the King. Sartine persuaded the weak monarch to lay his commands upon the duke to sound his friend the British admiral, and to make him the most liberal offers, if he would accept the command of a French fleet destined for the West Indies. The marechal did not very well relish the commission, for two reasons—one was, that he had too high an opinion of the admiral's honour, to believe that he would listen for a moment to the deceitful proposal; and, in the next place, he took it as an affront to himself to be thought capable of approving an action which, if it took place, must alienate him for ever from the person whom he now so highly valued.

The duke, however, in obedience to the royal mandate, invited Sir George to spend some weeks at his seat in the country. One morning, while walking in the gardens, the marechal began to introduce the subject, with as much cautious manœuvring as he could well practise; observing, that it was to be lamented an officer of such experience and gallantry should remain unemployed; and that there was now a signal opportunity for the display of his talents and the improvement of his fortune, in a country where he would meet with a more grateful return for his services than what he had met with in his own.

The admiral was struck; but, so far was he from being able to discover what this strange preamble would lead to, that, at length, he became alarmed, and imagined the duke must be deranged in his intellects; under which impression, he began to eye him with some apprehension. The duke

perceiving this, came to the point, and said, "that, as the King his master intended to make the West Indies the theatre of war, he had commissioned him to make unbounded offers to Sir George, if he would quit the English service, and accept the command of a French squadron on that station."

Those who have any recollection of the expressive countenance and piercing glance of the admiral, will readily figure to themselves the manner with which he received this address, and to which he made the following reply:—"My distresses, it is true, have driven me out of my native country; but no temptation whatever can estrange me from her service. Had this overture been a voluntary one of your own, I should have deemed it an unpardonable insult, but I am glad to learn that it proceeds from a source that can do no wrong."—The duke was affected, but not surprised; for he had been too long acquainted with the noble mind of the admiral, to suppose that he would, under any circumstances, hesitate where his duty was concerned. Taking Sir George by the hand, the marechal apologized for the disagreeable trial he had put him to, offered him the unlimited use of his purse, and assured him of his unalterable regard. He did more, and served him effectually, by transmitting the particulars now related to the British ministry; in consequence of which, the admiral immediately received an invitation to return, with the assurance of being appointed to a command, as soon as an arrangement could be made for the purpose. Upon this, he availed himself of the proffered assistance of his friend the duke, by borrowing the sum of one thousand louis to discharge the debts he had incurred in Paris, and which was repaid soon after his arrival in London. It merits notice here, that when the intelligence reached

Paris of the defeat of Count de Grasse, the population of that city were inflamed with the most violent rage and resentment against the marechal, vehemently reproaching him with having brought that disaster upon their nation. The marechal replied, "that he gloried in the man whose liberty he had effected, and in the victory which he had so nobly won."

The following anecdote of Admiral Rodney will amuse the reader, as characteristic of his spirit in correcting impertinence. A little before his departure from Paris, the Duke de Chartres, better known afterwards as the infamous Orleans, took occasion to acquaint Sir George that he was about to have a command in the fleet which was to be opposed to that under his friend and countryman Admiral Keppel; asking him, in an insulting manner, what he thought would be the consequence of their meeting? "That my countryman will carry your highness home with him, to learn English," replied Rodney.

Though this brave officer returned to England in the spring of 1778, he did not obtain an appointment till the first of October in the following year. The Spaniards had now commenced the blockade of Gibraltar; and the French, at the same time, menaced the whole of our West India Islands. To provide, therefore, for the security of those valuable possessions, a fleet, consisting of twenty-two sail of the line, was placed under the command of Admiral Rodney, who, after throwing supplies into Gibraltar, was directed to make all possible despatch for the ulterior object of his destination. Admiral Digby's division was attached to this fleet; and the whole sailed from Plymouth on the 29th of December. General Mundy, in his interesting memoir and cor-

respondence of Admiral Rodney, recently published, says, "It was a circumstance no less gratifying than flattering to Sir George Rodney, that he was selected by his Majesty to introduce his third son, Prince William-Henry, to the service of his country—a service to which his Royal Highness has ever shewn himself most devotedly attached; and in the duties of which, whilst in commission, he displayed much nautical talent, and maintained the most perfect discipline. His Royal Highness was placed, as a midshipman, on board the Prince George, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Digby—not nominally as a midshipman, but to do its duties; to have a thorough knowledge of the profession; to learn by practical experience the duties attached to the different stations, and to learn how to obey as well as how to command."

The uninformed reader might be led to suppose, from this statement and observation, that the Prince went for the first time to sea, under the particular care of Admiral Rodney; when, in fact, he had been already a year and a half in the service, and, in that time, had gone through much danger. The encounter of the channel-fleet with the combined French and Spanish squadrons in the preceding summer, exposed his Royal Highness to imminent danger; and, if a general action had taken place, as there was every reason to believe would have been the case, the carnage must have been considerable. There are veterans yet living, who recollect with pleasure the firmness of the heroic youth on that memorable occasion; the resolution which he displayed in anticipating an engagement; and the evident mortification he felt at the disappointment of his expectations.

This feeling, indeed, prevailed throughout the fleet, and

bitter were the invectives of the seamen, when, in obedience to the orders which the Admiralty had given, Sir Charles Hardy was reluctantly compelled to avoid a battle.

Ludicrous as the following anecdote is, it may be taken as a fair exemplification of the sentiments of the entire service. When the English fleet, under a press of sail, bore away from their opponents, a boatswain's mate on board the *Royal George*, stept over the ship's bows, and lashed a double hammock fast round the figure-head of the King. "What are you doing there?" says a lieutenant on the forecastle. "Only securing his peepers," replies Jack. "Peepers! what do you mean?" exclaims the officer. "Why," replied the man, "we arn't ordered to break the old boy's heart, are we? I'm sure if the King once gets a sight of this here day's work, and knows that we have run away like cowardly lubbers, it will be the death of him, poor soul."

Though this disgraceful event did not break the heart of the King, it certainly did that of Sir Charles Hardy; whose spirits were so oppressed on his arrival at Portsmouth, that he never went to sea again, and died shortly afterwards.

Such was the entrance of Prince William-Henry into public life; and when we consider his youth, the arduous nature of the service in which he engaged, and the extraordinary hazard he ran; we know not which to admire most—the patriotism of the King, in devoting his son to so perilous a profession, or the noble determination of the son to persevere in a line, which became attractive by its difficulties.

His Royal Highness left Windsor Castle at the end of November, and rejoined the Prince George at Ports-

mouth, which, with the rest of the fleet under Sir George Rodney, and a large convoy, was then ready for sea. The wind, however, blew so strong at south-west, that after beating down Channel, all the ships were forced into Cawsand Bay, from whence they departed, as already stated, on the 29th of December.

The delay, which had tried the patience of Rodney extremely, proved very fortunate in the result, by throwing into his hands a Spanish convoy of sixteen ships, laden with stores; together with seven men-of-war, which had them under protection. Of this acquisition, the Admiral wrote home the following account:—

“SANDWICH, at Sea, 9th January, 1780.

Lat. $41^{\circ} 44'$ N. Long. $14^{\circ} 25'$ W.

Cape Finisterre, E.N.E. 176 leagues.

“YESTERDAY, at daylight, the squadron of ships under my command, descried twenty-two sail in the north-east quarter. We immediately gave them chase, and in a few hours the whole were taken. They proved to be a Spanish convoy, which sailed from St. Sebastian's the 1st of January, and was under the protection of seven ships and vessels of war, belonging to the Royal Company of Caraccas, viz.

The Guipuscuano	84 guns,	550 men.
The San Carlos	32	200
The San Rafael	30	153
The Santa Teresa	28	150
The San Bruno	26	140
The Corvetta San Fermin	16	80
The San Vincento	10	40

“Part of the convoy was loaded with naval stores and provisions, for the Spanish ships of war at Cadiz; the rest with bale goods belonging to the Royal Company. Those loaded with naval stores and sale goods, I shall immediately despatch for England,

under convoy of His Majesty's ships, the *America* and *Pearl*. Those loaded with provisions, I shall carry to Gibraltar, for which place I am now steering, and have not a doubt that the service I am sent upon, will be speedily effected.

“As I thought it highly necessary to send a sixty-four-gun ship to protect so valuable a convoy, I have commissioned, officered, and manned the Spanish ship of war, of the same rate, and named her the *PRINCE WILLIAM*, in respect to his Royal Highness, in whose presence she had the honour to be taken. She has been launched only six months, is in every respect completely fitted for war, and much larger than the *Bienfaisant*, Captain Macbride, to whom she struck.

“I beg leave to congratulate your Lordships on this event, which must greatly distress the enemy; who, I am well informed, are much in want of provisions and naval stores.”

This capture, besides its being a valuable acquisition to the officers and seamen, proved also of the greatest national importance. It afterwards appeared, that a squadron of men-of-war, in consequence of the loss now sustained, was actually detained at Cadiz; being unable to proceed to the West Indies, for want of the supplies which were thus taken. That squadron would otherwise have sailed from Cadiz, and, having joined the French fleet at Martinico, the whole would have proceeded against the island of Jamaica, which was then in a very defenceless condition.

As soon as the prisoners were shifted, and the other necessary arrangements made, the English fleet pursued its course along the coast of Portugal. Admiral Rodney had gained certain information that a Spanish squadron was cruising off Cape St. Vincent; in consequence of which, he very judiciously ordered his ships to sail in a line abreast, with the convoy in the rear.

On the 16th of January, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy, under the command of Don Juan de Langara, appeared in sight, consisting of fourteen ships of the line. When first discovered, they were under an easy sail, and some of them either lying to, or standing towards our fleet. The weather being hazy, and the English line much extended, it was imagined the Spaniards did not immediately discover the whole of Admiral Rodney's force, for it was some time before they began to retreat. Meanwhile our fleet was steering directly towards them, with a fair wind, and under a press of sail. The moment their intentions to escape was perceived, the signal for the line of battle was hauled down, and another thrown out for a general chase, to engage as the ships came up, by rotation, in order to prevent the enemy's retreat into their own ports.

At four o'clock, the headmost ships being very near the enemy, a general signal was made to engage, and close. Admiral Rodney then, as it was now dusk, and the Spanish force could not be distinctly seen, called the master of the *Sandwich*, and said, "Master, take notice that this ship is not to pay any attention to the merchantmen, or small ships of war. Lay me alongside the largest ship you can see, or the admiral's, if there be one."

In a few minutes, the four headmost ships, being copper-bottomed, began the action; which was returned with great briskness by the Spaniards. At forty-four minutes after four, the *San Domingo*, of seventy guns and six hundred men, blew up, with a tremendous explosion, and every soul on board perished. At six, another of the Spanish ships of the line, struck. The action and pursuit continued, with a constant fire, till

two in the morning ; at which time, the *Monarca*, the headmost of all the Spanish ships, struck to the *Sandwich*, after receiving one broadside. All firing having now ceased, signal was made for the fleet to bring to.

This running engagement led the British fleet, and the prizes, very near the Spanish coast ; which, as the wind now blew hard, and the sea was consequently tempestuous, proved a very dangerous lee-shore. Great difficulty therefore was experienced in removing the prisoners, and putting the prizes in a state to proceed. The two last which surrendered, the *San Eugenio* and *San Julian*, were so much disabled, and got so near the harbour of Cadiz, that it became extremely hazardous, with such rough weather, to attempt taking them in tow. The *San Eugenio*, therefore, was abandoned, and soon struck upon some rocks, from whence she was shortly afterwards got off by the Spaniards themselves.

The *San Julian* having been driven, with only the stump of her foremast standing, very close to the shore, on the west side of Cadiz Bay, the British officers who had charge of her, seeing that it was impossible to bring her off, ran the prize aground near to the bar of Port St. Mary, where she was entirely lost ; but providentially, all on board, both Spaniards and English, were saved.

It continued very bad weather the whole of the next day ; when the *Royal George*, *Prince George*, *Sandwich*, and several other ships, were in great danger, and under the necessity of making sail, to avoid the shoals of St. Lucar ; nor did they get into deep water till the following morning, when, having joined the convoy, and made Cape Spartel, the British commander despatched two frigates to Tangier, to acquaint the consul there with the

victory that had been gained, and desiring him to hasten a supply of fresh provisions for the garrison of Gibraltar. The next day, as there was no person on board the Sandwich acquainted with the Bay of Gibraltar, Rear-Admiral Digby was ordered to lead in; and, at the same time, two frigates were sent ahead, to give notice to the governor of the approach of the fleet, and of the defeat of the enemy. The weather proved still very bad; and the current was so strong, that most of the ships were driven to the back of the rock. The Sandwich, therefore, and many of the men-of-war, with the prizes and English transports, on board which were one thousand troops, did not arrive in the bay till the 26th of January.

The following is a list of the Spanish force :

Phenix, Don Juan de Langara, admiral, eighty guns, seven hundred men; taken. She was built of mahogany and cedar, at the Havannah. After her capture, she was taken into the British navy, and obtained the name of the Gibraltar. She is now a sheer hulk at Plymouth.

San Augustin, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped.

San Genaro, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped.

San Justo, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped, much damaged.

San Lorenzo, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped, very much damaged.

San Julian, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken, but lost.

San Eugenio, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken, and run ashore.

Monarca, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

Princessa, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

Diligente, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

These three last ships were all brought safe with the Phenix, into Gibraltar.

San Domingo, seventy guns, six hundred men; blown up.

Santa Gertrude, twenty-six guns; escaped.

Santa Rozalia, twenty-eight guns; escaped.

This second loss which the Spaniards sustained, gave the decisive blow to their projected expedition, in concert with the French, against our West India settlements. It is highly gratifying to state, that the high talents displayed by Admiral Rodney on this occasion, were not more distinguished than his attention to the call of humanity.

Previous to his success against Langara, the English prisoners in Spain had been treated with the greatest barbarity; and it required more than an ordinary strength of constitution to exist for any length of time in a Spanish prison. When Admiral Langara was taken, both himself, as well as his officers and men, expected, naturally enough, to meet with the same treatment they had been accustomed to give to others, who had the misfortune to fall into their hands. They were, therefore, greatly astonished to find in the British commander a man of exalted sentiments, who felt for their misfortunes, relieved their wants, and did every thing in his power to lessen their affliction. His polite behaviour also made such a powerful impression upon their minds, as induced them to conceive some sympathy for the sufferings of English prisoners. The admiral took occasion to represent the miserable condition of his countrymen when captives in an enemy's country; and he obtained a pledge from Langara, that such Englishmen as might hereafter become prisoners in Spain, should experience a different treatment from that of which there had been too much cause to complain.

Under the immediate circumstances, however, there was too much reason to believe, that the Spanish government was far from appreciating this sentiment as it merited, or of even acting with common justice. Langara was extremely anxious to be released on his parole, as well as his officers, who were now prisoners of war. Admiral Rodney having some reason to apprehend that an unconditional discharge would not meet with an adequate return, refused to give up any of the prisoners, except some ecclesiastics, and the sick and wounded, until all the English captives were restored to their country. He was led to adopt this measure by receiving a letter from his majesty's consul-general in Portugal, acquainting him, that above six hundred Spanish prisoners had been released there, and that he had not received one Englishman in return. Upon this, the Admiral informed Langara, that he should be under the necessity of sending him and the remaining prisoners to England, unless, upon the unequivocal principle of exchange, or man for man. Whatever might be the private character of the Spanish commander, it is certain that the conduct of his court was base and dishonourable. Every thing was done to procrastinate the negotiation, with a view, no doubt, of embarrassing the operations of the British admiral, and obliging him to get rid of prisoners, whom he could as ill accommodate as support. The Spaniards themselves, at this time, indeed, were much straitened in their camp before Gibraltar. Colonel Drinkwater, in his interesting journal of the siege, has described their condition, after the victory of Rodney, as worse than that of the garrison :—

“A great many deserters came in,” says he, “and gave us dismal accounts of the enemy's sufferings in camp, where universal discontent prevailed on account of

the great scarcity and dearness of provisions. We little doubted the truth of this intelligence: the neighbourhood of their camp, from our knowledge of the country, was not capable of subsisting so large an army, consequently they were obliged to be supplied from places at a distance; and these resources, since Admiral Rodney's arrival, had been cut off.

“His cruisers, in truth, not only obstructed these supplies, but also prevented the garrison of Ceuta, on the opposite coast, from receiving the refreshments from Spain, which their situation made necessary. If Sir George Rodney, therefore, had been able to continue some time longer in the Mediterranean, our enemies would probably have been reduced to greater difficulties than we ourselves had experienced.”

Admiral Rodney perceiving to what all the shuffling of the Spanish authorities tended, resolved to bring the business to a point at once; and on the 10th of February wrote the following peremptory letter to Don Juan de Langara:—

“The delay of your court in restoring the subjects of the King, my master, to that liberty so justly their due, after more than one thousand Spanish prisoners have been delivered without returning even one British subject, is such a contempt, as behoves me, as a British Admiral, to act becoming a faithful and diligent servant to my royal master. All prisoners, therefore, whatever rank they may have, I am determined shall be conveyed to England in his Majesty's ships. I am, therefore, under the necessity of acquainting you, that proper accommodations shall immediately be made for you and your equipage on board one of his Majesty's ships, and proper boats will attend to-morrow morning to receive yourself, your baggage,

and servants, to embark for England. Proper attention shall likewise be paid to all those brave officers who had the honour of serving under your command.

“Believe me, sir, I feel most sensibly for your situation—so near your country and family, and neglected by those who ought to have shewed every respect due to a brave officer, who has so gallantly discharged the duty he owed his king and country. Nothing can alter this determination, but the release of all the British prisoners of war before my leaving this place, which will be as soon as possible.”

This letter, and the orders which followed it, had the desired effect. The Spanish General commanding the blockade, on the morning of the intended embarkation, sent notice that the English prisoners were on their way to St. Roque; that he had received positive commands from his sovereign to treat them with respect; that the court of Madrid was sensible of the humanity and urbanity with which their officers and men had been treated; and directing both him, and the viceroy of the province, with all his Catholic majesty's officers, to shew the English the greatest civility and kindness.

Upon this, Sir George Rodney immediately countermanded his orders for the embarkation of the Spanish prisoners, and the same day released Don Juan and his officers on their parole of honour, that he might, as he said, add to the favourable impression which had been made on the court of Madrid and the Spanish nation.

Previous to his departure, Don Juan visited Admiral Digby; which circumstance has furnished Colonel Drinkwater with an anecdote, which he thus relates:—“During the conference between the two Admirals, the Prince

retired ; and when it was intimated that Don Juan wished to return, his Royal Highness appeared in the character of a midshipman, and respectfully informed the Admiral that the barge was ready. The Spaniard, astonished to see the son of a monarch acting as a warrant officer, could not help exclaiming, "Well does Great Britain merit the empire of the sea, when the humblest stations in her navy are filled by princes of the blood !"

It is difficult to say, if the preceding anecdote confers on the British Prince, or the Spanish Admiral, the greater honour. The conduct ascribed to the former will add, in future years, a gem to the diadem which he now wears ; and the discernment and observation of the latter will never cease to be associated with Langara's name.

At the period of its assigned occurrence, the papers of the day repeated it with acclamation, and the nation triumphed in giving it publicity. In modern times, some few have affected to doubt the fact, but it was noticed on the continent, and had obtained a general circulation long before Colonel Drinkwater, in 1790, published his very interesting work on the ever memorable siege of Gibraltar.

It might well indeed excite admiration, to see a young prince, just turned of fourteen, embarked on a tempestuous element, and exposed to the horrors of war. The impression made by this voluntary and noble act of devotion, may be estimated by the conduct of the great Frederick of Prussia. One of his nobles having solicited from the king a commission for his son, received this answer:—"As our young nobility in general never learn any thing, they of course are exceedingly ignorant. In England, one of the King's sons, wishing to instruct himself, has not scrupled to set out as a common sailor.

“ If any one of our men of fashion should chance to distinguish himself, and prove useful to his country, he will have no reason to plume himself upon his quality. Titles and birth are nothing else than vanity and folly. True merit is personal.”

Sir George Rodney having relieved Gibraltar and Minorca, left the bay on the 13th of February; and on the 15th, parted company with Admiral Digby, who was bound home, in charge of the prizes. In his letter to the Admiralty, Rodney said, “ The five Spanish men-of-war are as fine ships as ever swam. They are now completely refitted, manned, and put in line of battle; and, I will answer for them, will do their duty as English men-of-war, should the enemy give them an opportunity.”

On the 23rd, Admiral Digby fell in with a French convoy, bound to the Mauritius, consisting of two ships of sixty-four guns each; two large store-ships, armé-en-flûte; two frigates; and about thirteen sail of transports, with warlike stores and troops. Three of the convoy were taken, with the *Prothée*, one of the sixty-fours; but the *Ajax* and the rest escaped, owing to the want of proper frigates to pursue them.

It is a singular fact, that the news of Admiral Rodney's victory was first communicated to the British Government by Mr. Fitzherbert, now Lord St. Helen's; then our minister at Brussels; to which court a despatch had been sent express from Madrid; in which it was pretended that the advantage was in favour of the Spanish admiral. Mr. Fitzherbert, who was allowed a cursory view of the letter, with the practised eye of an adroit diplomatist, soon saw through the cheat, and, without delay, acquainted his government that Sir George Rodney had gained a victory over Langara's fleet. Captain Thompson

did not arrive in England with the admiral's official despatch till many days afterwards; he, as well as Captain Macbride, who was charged with a duplicate of the same, having encountered the most tempestuous weather and adverse winds, during a voyage of nearly a month. Mr. Fitzherbert's letter reached London on the 12th February.

As soon as Prince William landed, he set off for London, and arrived at the Queen's palace on the 8th of March; when the greeting which welcomed him may be imagined, but cannot be described. The day following, there was a full court; at which his Royal Highness was formally introduced by the Earl of Sandwich, then first lord of the Admiralty, for the purpose of presenting to his Majesty the flag of Don Juan de Langara, and that of the Prothée, which had been since captured. Colonel Drinkwater says:

“ When that youthful hero, Prince William, on his return, laid his early laurels at the feet of his royal Father, he presented, at the same time, a plan of the garrison, in the relief of which he had made his first essay. In that plan were delineated the improvements which the place had undergone; and the new batteries that had been erected on the heights since the commencement of the blockade.”

To this interesting and affecting spectacle, than which, perhaps, one more touching was never exhibited at any royal levee, the writer of an animated Ode, in praise of Rodney, alluded, in the following stanzas :—

“ Now last, not “ least in love,” the Muse
Her WILLIAM's name would fondly chuse
The British youth among :
Still may the sailors love thy name,
And happy health and blooming fame
Awake the future song.

“ So in the spring the promised rose
First buds, and budding gently blows
Beneath the morning dew ;
’Till, nourished by a warmer ray,
The blushing leaves their sweets display,
And fragrance ever new.

“ E’en now the sea-green sisters bind
A wreath around thy growing mind,
And deck their fav’rite son ;
E’en now the Bourbon colours meet,
Which, laying at thy father’s feet,
Thou tell’st how bravely won.”

The following poetical effusion, not void of merit, appeared at the same time, in honour of this promising hope of Britain :—

“ Still on the deep does Britain reign,
Her Monarch still the trident bears ;
Vain-glorious France, deluded Spain,
Have found their hostile efforts vain.
As the young eagle to the blaze of day,
Undazzled and undaunted, turns her eyes ;
So, unappall’d, when glory led the way,
’Midst storms of war, midst mingling seas and skies,
The genuine offspring of the Brunswick name
Prov’d his high birth’s hereditary claim ;
And the applauding nation hail’d with joy
Their future hero in the intrepid boy.”

The enthusiasm which animated the people on the achievement of the only naval battle that had been won since the commencement of hostilities, made the young Prince deservedly a popular favourite. Every person was

anxious to obtain a sight of him ; and when it was known that he purposed visiting Drury Lane Theatre on the evening of the 13th of March, the crowd was so great, that it became necessary to throw a kind of bridge from the stage to the pit, to enable the people to pass out, who were in danger of being pressed to death.

While on this subject, it may not be amiss to state, that the Corporation of London voted the freedom of the city, in a rich gold box, to Admiral Rodney ; as they had the year preceding voted one of heart of oak to Admiral Keppel. This gave occasion to the witty Caleb Whiteford, to throw out the following stinging epigram ; in which the citizens and their first favourite were not improperly characterized :—

“ Each Admiral’s defective part,
Satyric Cits, you ’ve told—
That cautious Lee-shore wanted heart,
And gallant Rodney gold.

Your wisdom, London’s Council far
Our highest praise exceeds,
In giving each illustrious tar
The very thing he needs.

For Rodney brave, but low in cash,
You golden gifts bespoke ;
To Keppel rich, but not so rash,
You gave a heart of oak.

Arduous as the service was in which Prince William had been recently engaged, he did not remain long ashore. On the 24th of May, Admiral Francis Geary hoisted his flag on board the *Victory*, as Commander-in-chief of the Channel Fleet, consisting of twenty-nine sail of the line,

in four divisions. The other admirals were, George Darby, in the *Britannia*; Sir John Lockhart Ross, in the *Royal George*; Robert Digby, in the *Prince George*; and Samuel Barrington, in the *Barfleur*.

Admiral Geary was a seaman of the school of Hawke; and how highly that noble veteran esteemed him, will appear from the following letter, written on his present appointment:—

“ I find, by the papers, that you are getting ready for sea, with all the despatch that is possible, and that you will sail the instant that it is in your power; and, though I could wish this could get to your hands first, yet the times are so very pressing, from many unfortunate events, that I think the sooner you can get to my old station off Brest, the better it will be for my country. When you are there, watch those fellows as a cat watches a mouse; and if once you can have the good fortune to get up to them, make much of them, and don't part with them easily. Forgive my being so free. I love you. We have served long together, and I have your interest and happiness sincerely at heart. My dear friend, may God Almighty bless you! and may that all-powerful hand guide and protect you in the day of battle.”

In another letter, the veteran admiral repeats his advice, and in the same warmth of expression:—

“ MY GOOD FRIEND,—I have always wished you well, and have ever talked freely and openly to you on every subject relative to the service. Recollect some of these passages; and, for God's sake, if you should be so lucky as to get sight of the enemy, get as close to them as possible. Do not let them shuffle with you by engaging at a distance, but get within musket-shot, if you can; that will be the way to gain great honour, and will be the means to make the action decisive. By doing this, you will put it out of the power of any of the crawlers to find

fault. I am fully persuaded you will faithfully do your part; therefore, hope you will forgive my saying so much.—My good friend, God bless you! may the hand of Providence go with you and protect you in the day of battle, and grant you victory over our perfidious enemies!"

Such was the patriotic feeling of that illustrious hero, at the close of a long and glorious life. Lord Hawke died on the first of October, in the following year; and as the history of his early life is curious, the reader will, no doubt, excuse the present digression.

The mother of Edward Hawke was sister to Colonel Bladen, one of the commissioners of trade and plantations, a person well known in the political world during the reign of George the First and Second. The Colonel one morning sent for his nephew, and said, "Ned, would you like to be a sailor?" "Yes, sir," replied the little hero. "Are you willing to go now, or wait till you grow bigger?" "This instant, sir," said young Hawke, though then only twelve years old. In a few days, his friends were consulted; but his father, who was a merchant in the city, seemed totally averse to the proposition. Young Ned was not, however, to be dissuaded from his purpose; and, at length, the father consented. On the morning of his departure to go abroad, his mother summoned all her fortitude, and addressed him with great calmness:—"Adieu, Ned," said she, "I hope shortly to see you a captain." "A captain," replied Ned, "Madam, I trust you will soon see me an admiral." He jumped instantly into the coach that was waiting to convey him to Portsmouth, and from thence to the ship, where the fleet lay, without any emotion.

Admiral Geary proceeded directly off Brest—his instructions being, to prevent, if possible, an intended

junction of the Spanish squadrons then in Cadiz, Ferrol, and Carthagena, with those of France, in Brest, Rochefort, and Port L'Orient. Nothing material, however, occurred till the 3rd of July, when the Monarch, Captain, afterwards Admiral, Duncan, being ahead of the fleet on the look-out, made a signal at ten o'clock in the morning for discovering a fleet consisting of twenty sail. These were immediately concluded to be the enemy of whom they were in search, and the utmost alacrity was used in endeavouring to get up with them. The chase continued the whole day; and at five in the afternoon, the headmost ships came up with the sternmost of the fugitives, which proved to be nothing more than a convoy from Port-au-Prince, under the protection of a single ship of fifty guns. The pursuers did not bring-to for the purpose of securing the ships as they passed, but left that duty to some others of the fleet that were still astern. Unfortunately, a very thick fog came on in the evening, which favoured the escape of nearly half of the convoy. Twelve, however, were captured; which, with the two taken in the Channel, were valued at one hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds.

During this long and arduous chase, there occurred a ludicrous circumstance. The first captain of the Victory was the brave and unfortunate Kempenfelt, equally celebrated for his nautical skill and valour. To his many valuable qualifications, he added, beyond most men in the service, great address in manœuvring, as well for continuing as bringing on an action. It was thought, however, by some, that he indulged his love of signals too far, and gave more trouble than was necessary. As soon as the strange fleet came in sight, Kempenfelt went below and brought up the signal-book, which he opened and

laid on the binnacle, with the greatest formality and precision. Admiral Geary, fully impressed with the idea that the chase was the Brest fleet, went up to Kempenfelt, squeezed him by the hand, shut the book, and said, "Now, my dear friend, do pray let the signals alone to-day, and to-morrow you shall order as many as ever you please."

As the fleet had now been at sea above two months, and had suffered much, it became necessary to return to port. Accordingly, the whole brought up at St. Helen's on the 18th of August; soon after which, Admiral Geary, being taken ill, relinquished the command to Admiral Darby.

There were near three thousand men on the sick list, when the fleet came to an anchor; yet, such was the excellent constitution of Prince William, he never had one day's illness during the whole of this long and tedious cruise. His Royal Highness, however, had a very narrow escape of another kind. In a storm, off Cape Finisterre, the Duke, of ninety guns, Captain Sir Charles Douglas, and the Prince George, were driven so close together, that, to use the sailor's phrase, you might have "tossed a biscuit from one ship to the other." Had a collision taken place, one, if not both vessels, would in all probability have gone to the bottom; but, fortunately, through the extraordinary exertions of the respective crews, and the good management of the officers, the threatened danger was prevented, and no damage was suffered on either side.

Such was the condition of the Prince George, that Admiral Digby was enabled to quit his moorings on the 28th of August, and proceed again down the channel with twelve sail of the line, for the protection of the

homeward-bound West India trade. Admiral Darby soon followed; and the whole squadron kept at sea till the beginning of December, when the want of provisions obliged the ships to return, having only bread enough left for two days. On entering the channel, the French fleet hove in sight; but night coming on before the number of the enemy could be ascertained, no action took place, and the next morning not one was to be seen.

Prince William having completed this arduous campaign, hastened to pass the winter in the bosom of his illustrious Family, by all of whom he was heartily caressed. The joy, however, produced by the arrival, safe and sound, of the royal sailor, after so many hair-breadth escapes, was somewhat damped by the departure of his brother, Prince Frederick, the late Duke of York, for the continent, to go through a course of military education, under the ablest masters of the art of war in the Prussian service.

This affecting separation took place at Buckingham House, on the morning of the 30th of December. Their Majesties felt much, and Prince William was greatly moved; but the Prince of Wales was so overpowered at the idea of being deprived, for several years, from the particular companion and friend of his youth, that he was unable to speak, or to refrain from tears.

On New-year's day his Royal Highness embarked at Harwich with the venerable Colonel Greville; and the following day landed at Ostend, where he was received with all the honours due to his exalted rank, by the commandant and magistrates.

CHAPTER III.

FROM 1781 TO 1783.

PRINCE WILLIAM was not long permitted to enjoy the pleasures of the season on shore. At the ball, given in honour of the Queen's birth-day, he joined in the lively dance; but, about a fortnight afterwards, he was on the quarter-deck of the Prince George, at Spithead, discharging the routine of duty as a midshipman. In every thing connected with the situation of a warrant-officer, he performed his part as punctually and cheerfully as the rest of his brother *mids*, towards whom, also, he behaved in such a manner, as gained their entire affection. His courtesy extended to all, and there was nothing he despised more than any endeavour to procure his favour by servility of address. No one approached him with the appellation of Your Royal Highness the second time; for the manner in which it was received sufficiently shewed how ill it was taken.

In the orlop, which is that part of the ship appropriated to the midshipmen, the Prince was the life and soul of his comrades. He shared with them in their amusements, and they partook of his better fortune; for the young and rising supporters of their country's greatness are not generally the children of affluence. Most of them, indeed, have to struggle with pinching difficulties during their long period of probation. Rodney was

not one of that class himself, but he felt for those who were ; and when his dinner was going aft, he has often seen the hungry *mids* cast over the dishes a wistful watery mouth ; upon noticing which, he has instantly arrested their supporters, and ordered the whole of his dinner, save one dish, to be carried to the midshipmen's mess.

The sympathy of Prince William was equal to that of the noble admiral ; and all on board the Prince George, of whatever station, were made happy by his generosity. By the officers he was beloved, and by the crew he was adored. The buoyancy of spirits, the disposition to relieve, the total absence of pride, and an incessant turn for humour and frolic, were the points which marked his character, and rendered him the centre of attraction, and not the circumstance of birth and dignity of title.

On some occasions, differences would arise between the Prince and his companions ; for it must be admitted there was in him, from his infancy, a strong propensity to fun and playing tricks, which did not always meet with forbearance from those who were made the objects of ridicule. Whether it was in the first, or second cruise, cannot now be recollected, but the Prince had not been long on board, when a practical joke, played by him upon a young midshipman of his own standing, produced a pugilistic contest, which terminated in the usual way—black eyes, and shaking hands. The antagonist of the Prince was a relative of the Admiral, and the younger son of a gentleman of large landed property in the county of Dorset.

On the 25th of February, 1781, Rear-Admiral Digby, with six sail of the line, got under weigh, and went down

Channel on a cruise; but, two days afterwards, the wind blew so violently from the westward, that the ships were driven into Plymouth Sound with considerable damage.

The siege of Gibraltar was now carried on with such extraordinary vigour, as to attract the attention and excite the wonder of all Europe. As the defence of that important fortress required large supplies from England, Admiral Darby, with two hundred transports, sailed from Spithead on the 13th of March, and, being joined by the squadron under Admiral Digby, proceeded on that service. Owing to the severe westerly gales which the fleet had to encounter, and the necessity of keeping the convoy together, the Admiral did not reach Cape Spartel till the 11th of April, when he despatched the Kite cutter with a letter to General Eliot, informing him of the approaching relief. The next day, about noon, the convoy, with four ships of the line and some frigates to protect them, anchored in and about Rosier Bay, while the rest of the squadron kept under sail in the road, as the Spaniards had at that time a large fleet in Cadiz ready for sea. Thirteen of the transports, with two frigates, were then forwarded for the relief of Minorca, the English garrison at which place was suffering still more dreadfully than that of Gibraltar.

The following description of the appearance of this spectacle is given by the late Mr. Gilpin, in his work on picturesque scenery:—

“It was near day-break, on the 12th of April, 1781, when a message was brought from the signal-house, at the summit of the rock, that the long-expected fleet, under Admiral Darby, was in sight.

“Innumerable masts were just discovered from that lofty situation; but could not be seen from the lower

parts of the castle, being obscured by a thick fog, which had set in from the west, and totally overspread the opening of the straits. In this uncertainty, the garrison remained for some time; while the fleet, invested in obscurity, moved slowly towards the castle. In the mean time, the sun becoming powerful, the fog rose, like the curtain of a vast theatre, and discovered at once the whole fleet, full and distinct before the eye. The convoy, consisting of near three hundred vessels, were in a compact body, led on by twenty-eight sail of the line, and a number of tenders and other smaller vessels. A gentle wind just filled their sails, and brought them forward with a slow and solemn motion. Had all this grand exhibition been presented gradually, the sublimity of it would have been injured by the acquaintance the eye would have made with it during its approach; but the appearance of it in all its greatness at once, before the eye had examined the detail, had a wonderful effect."

As soon as the ships were secured, they began unloading the victuallers, amidst a tremendous fire from the Spanish batteries and gun-boats. Shot and shells poured like hail without a moment's cessation, upon the covering ships and the transports, many of which sustained great damage and considerable loss. The Commander-in-chief finding the wind likely to continue westerly, and anxious to give the garrison all the assistance in his power, by facilitating the unloading of the victuallers, and protecting them from the enemy, directed Admiral Sir John Ross and his division to anchor in the road. On the 19th Admiral Darby, with some of his ships, anchored to the eastward of Europa Point, in order to set up the rigging, and get off some fresh water. The next morning the

wind sprung up to the eastward, on which, as the service was now completed, the whole fleet got under weigh, and in the evening were clear of the bay.

Thus was our British Prince twice employed in the relief of Gibraltar, and each time with peculiar glory; for though the last occasion was not distinguished by any positive victory, it contributed to one of the greatest military triumphs ever recorded in history.

It is not a little remarkable, that two princes of the blood, both of whom many years afterwards became sovereigns, should have been present at the memorable siege of Gibraltar. The late King of France, then Comte d'Artois, being desirous of witnessing this grand spectacle, visited Spain for the purpose; and what, perhaps, is still more extraordinary, he actually took upon himself to be the bearer of letters for the officers of the garrison, from their friends. On the arrival of the Prince at the Spanish camp, these letters were sent to Governor Eliot by the Duke de Crillon, who then conducted the siege. This produced a correspondence, which cannot be read without exciting admiration, and carrying the mind back to the heroic ages of chivalry. The following is a translation of the Duke de Crillon's letter, written in the camp of Buenavista, August 19, 1782:—

“ Sir,—His Royal Highness Comte d'Artois, who has received permission from the King his brother to assist at the siege, as a volunteer in the combined army, of which their most Christian and Catholic Majesties have honoured me with the command, arrived in this camp the 15th instant.

“ This young prince has been pleased, in passing through Madrid, to take charge of some letters, which has been sent to that capital, and are addressed to persons belonging to your garrison. His Royal Highness has desired that I would transmit

them to you, and that to this mark of his goodness and attention I should add the strongest expressions of esteem for your person and character. I feel the greater pleasure in giving this mark of condescension in this august prince, as it furnishes me with an opportunity, which I have been anxiously looking for these two months that I have been in the camp, to assure you of the high esteem I have conceived for your excellency; of the immense desire I feel of having yours; and of the pleasure to which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learned to render myself worthy of the honour of facing you as an enemy. His Royal Highness, the Duke de Bourbon, who arrived here twenty-four hours after Comte d'Artois, desires also that I should assure you of his particular esteem. Permit me, dear general, to offer you a few little trifles for your table, of which I am sure you must stand in need: as I know you live entirely on vegetables, I should be glad to be informed what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges for the gentlemen of your household, and some ice, which I presume will not be disagreeable, in the excessive heat in this climate, and the present season of the year. I hope you will be so obliging as to accept the small portion which I send with this letter."

To this epistle, General Eliot returned, the next day, the following answer :—

" Sir,—I find myself highly honoured by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the Comte d'Artois and the Duke de Bourbon, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These princes have shewed their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to form great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension of his Royal Highness, in permitting some letters, for persons in this place, to be conveyed from Madrid in his carriage. I flatter myself that your excellency will give my most profound

respects to his Royal Highness, and to the Duke de Bourbon, for the expressions of esteem with which they have been pleased to honour so insignificant a person as myself.

“ I return a thousand thanks to your excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables, and game. You will excuse me, however, I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war; and that was, never to receive, or procure, by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity, for my own private use; so that, without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier, if he has money, can become a purchaser, equally with the governor. I confess I make it a point of honour to partake both of plenty and scarcity, in common with the lowest of my brave fellow-soldiers; which furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of entreating your excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own personal use. Indeed, to be plain with your excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one of us has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them. The English are fond of gardening and cultivation; and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

“ The promise which the Duke de Crillon makes to honour me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations. The interests of our sovereigns being once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness embrace the first opportunity to avail myself of so precious a treasure.”

Admiral Darby returned to Spithead on the 21st of May; and in the following month sailed again, without meeting the combined Spanish and French fleets, which were falsely reported to have been seen in the chops of the Channel.

The recall of Admiral Arbuthnot from the North American station, was followed by the appointment of Admiral Digby to that important trust ; and in the beginning of September he arrived at Sandy Hook with the Prince George, Lion, and Canada.

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CHAPTER III.

FROM 1781 TO 1783.

PRINCE WILLIAM was not long permitted to enjoy the pleasures of the season on shore. At the ball, given in honour of the Queen's birth-day, he joined in the lively dance; but, about a fortnight afterwards, he was on the quarter-deck of the Prince George, at Spithead, discharging the routine of duty as a midshipman. In every thing connected with the situation of a warrant-officer, he performed his part as punctually and cheerfully as the rest of his brother *mids*, towards whom, also, he behaved in such a manner, as gained their entire affection. His courtesy extended to all, and there was nothing he despised more than any endeavour to procure his favour by servility of address. - No one approached him with the appellation of Your Royal Highness the second time; for the manner in which it was received sufficiently shewed how ill it was taken.

In the orlop, which is that part of the ship appropriated to the midshipmen, the Prince was the life and soul of his comrades. He shared with them in their amusements, and they partook of his better fortune; for the young and rising supporters of their country's greatness are not generally the children of affluence. Most of them, indeed, have to struggle with pinching difficulties during their long period of probation. Rodney was

not one of that class himself, but he felt for those who were ; and when his dinner was going aft, he has often seen the hungry *mids* cast over the dishes a wistful watery mouth ; upon noticing which, he has instantly arrested their supporters, and ordered the whole of his dinner, save one dish, to be carried to the midshipmen's mess.

The sympathy of Prince William was equal to that of the noble admiral ; and all on board the Prince George, of whatever station, were made happy by his generosity. By the officers he was beloved, and by the crew he was adored. The buoyancy of spirits, the disposition to relieve, the total absence of pride, and an incessant turn for humour and frolic, were the points which marked his character, and rendered him the centre of attraction, and not the circumstance of birth and dignity of title.

On some occasions, differences would arise between the Prince and his companions ; for it must be admitted there was in him, from his infancy, a strong propensity to fun and playing tricks, which did not always meet with forbearance from those who were made the objects of ridicule. Whether it was in the first, or second cruise, cannot now be recollected, but the Prince had not been long on board, when a practical joke, played by him upon a young midshipman of his own standing, produced a pugilistic contest, which terminated in the usual way—black eyes, and shaking hands. The antagonist of the Prince was a relative of the Admiral, and the younger son of a gentleman of large landed property in the county of Dorset.

On the 25th of February, 1781, Rear-Admiral Digby, with six sail of the line, got under weigh, and went down

Channel on a cruise; but, two days afterwards, the wind blew so violently from the westward, that the ships were driven into Plymouth Sound with considerable damage.

The siege of Gibraltar was now carried on with such extraordinary vigour, as to attract the attention and excite the wonder of all Europe. As the defence of that important fortress required large supplies from England, Admiral Darby, with two hundred transports, sailed from Spithead on the 13th of March, and, being joined by the squadron under Admiral Digby, proceeded on that service. Owing to the severe westerly gales which the fleet had to encounter, and the necessity of keeping the convoy together, the Admiral did not reach Cape Spartel till the 11th of April, when he despatched the Kite cutter with a letter to General Eliot, informing him of the approaching relief. The next day, about noon, the convoy, with four ships of the line and some frigates to protect them, anchored in and about Rosier Bay, while the rest of the squadron kept under sail in the road, as the Spaniards had at that time a large fleet in Cadiz ready for sea. Thirteen of the transports, with two frigates, were then forwarded for the relief of Minorca, the English garrison at which place was suffering still more dreadfully than that of Gibraltar.

The following description of the appearance of this spectacle is given by the late Mr. Gilpin, in his work on picturesque scenery:—

“It was near day-break, on the 12th of April, 1781, when a message was brought from the signal-house, at the summit of the rock, that the long-expected fleet, under Admiral Darby, was in sight.

“Innumerable masts were just discovered from that lofty situation; but could not be seen from the lower

parts of the castle, being obscured by a thick fog, which had set in from the west, and totally overspread the opening of the straits. In this uncertainty, the garrison remained for some time; while the fleet, invested in obscurity, moved slowly towards the castle. In the mean time, the sun becoming powerful, the fog rose, like the curtain of a vast theatre, and discovered at once the whole fleet, full and distinct before the eye. The convoy, consisting of near three hundred vessels, were in a compact body, led on by twenty-eight sail of the line, and a number of tenders and other smaller vessels. A gentle wind just filled their sails, and brought them forward with a slow and solemn motion. Had all this grand exhibition been presented gradually, the sublimity of it would have been injured by the acquaintance the eye would have made with it during its approach; but the appearance of it in all its greatness at once, before the eye had examined the detail, had a wonderful effect."

As soon as the ships were secured, they began unloading the victuallers, amidst a tremendous fire from the Spanish batteries and gun-boats. Shot and shells poured like hail without a moment's cessation, upon the covering ships and the transports, many of which sustained great damage and considerable loss. The Commander-in-chief finding the wind likely to continue westerly, and anxious to give the garrison all the assistance in his power, by facilitating the unloading of the victuallers, and protecting them from the enemy, directed Admiral Sir John Ross and his division to anchor in the road. On the 19th Admiral Darby, with some of his ships, anchored to the eastward of Europa Point, in order to set up the rigging, and get off some fresh water. The next morning the

wind sprung up to the eastward, on which, as the service was now completed, the whole fleet got under weigh, and in the evening were clear of the bay.

Thus was our British Prince twice employed in the relief of Gibraltar, and each time with peculiar glory; for though the last occasion was not distinguished by any positive victory, it contributed to one of the greatest military triumphs ever recorded in history.

It is not a little remarkable, that two princes of the blood, both of whom many years afterwards became sovereigns, should have been present at the memorable siege of Gibraltar. The late King of France, then Comte d'Artois, being desirous of witnessing this grand spectacle, visited Spain for the purpose; and what, perhaps, is still more extraordinary, he actually took upon himself to be the bearer of letters for the officers of the garrison, from their friends. On the arrival of the Prince at the Spanish camp, these letters were sent to Governor Eliot by the Duke de Crillon, who then conducted the siege. This produced a correspondence, which cannot be read without exciting admiration, and carrying the mind back to the heroic ages of chivalry. The following is a translation of the Duke de Crillon's letter, written in the camp of Buenavista, August 19, 1782:—

“ Sir,—His Royal Highness Comte d'Artois, who has received permission from the King his brother to assist at the siege, as a volunteer in the combined army, of which their most Christian and Catholic Majesties have honoured me with the command, arrived in this camp the 15th instant.

“ This young prince has been pleased, in passing through Madrid, to take charge of some letters, which has been sent to that capital, and are addressed to persons belonging to your garrison. His Royal Highness has desired that I would transmit

them to you, and that to this mark of his goodness and attention I should add the strongest expressions of esteem for your person and character. I feel the greater pleasure in giving this mark of condescension in this august prince, as it furnishes me with an opportunity, which I have been anxiously looking for these two months that I have been in the camp, to assure you of the high esteem I have conceived for your excellency; of the immense desire I feel of having yours; and of the pleasure to which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learned to render myself worthy of the honour of facing you as an enemy. His Royal Highness, the Duke de Bourbon, who arrived here twenty-four hours after Comte d'Artois, desires also that I should assure you of his particular esteem. Permit me, dear general, to offer you a few little trifles for your table, of which I am sure you must stand in need: as I know you live entirely on vegetables, I should be glad to be informed what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges for the gentlemen of your household, and some ice, which I presume will not be disagreeable, in the excessive heat in this climate, and the present season of the year. I hope you will be so obliging as to accept the small portion which I send with this letter."

To this epistle, General Eliot returned, the next day, the following answer:—

"Sir,—I find myself highly honoured by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the Comte d'Artois and the Duke de Bourbon, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These princes have shewed their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to form great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension of his Royal Highness, in permitting some letters, for persons in this place, to be conveyed from Madrid in his carriage. I flatter myself that your excellency will give my most profound

respects to his Royal Highness, and to the Duke de Bourbon, for the expressions of esteem with which they have been pleased to honour so insignificant a person as myself.

“ I return a thousand thanks to your excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables, and game. You will excuse me, however, I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war; and that was, never to receive, or procure, by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity, for my own private use; so that, without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier, if he has money, can become a purchaser, equally with the governor. I confess I make it a point of honour to partake both of plenty and scarcity, in common with the lowest of my brave fellow-soldiers; which furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of entreating your excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own personal use. Indeed, to be plain with your excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one of us has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them. The English are fond of gardening and cultivation; and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

“ The promise which the Duke de Crillon makes to honour me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations. The interests of our sovereigns being once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness embrace the first opportunity to avail myself of so precious a treasure.”

Admiral Darby returned to Spithead on the 21st of May; and in the following month sailed again, without meeting the combined Spanish and French fleets, which were falsely reported to have been seen in the chops of the Channel.

The recall of Admiral Arbuthnot from the North American station, was followed by the appointment of Admiral Digby to that important trust ; and in the beginning of September he arrived at Sandy Hook with the Prince George, Lion, and Canada.

The landing of Prince William-Henry at New York produced a very general sensation among the inhabitants. On the following Sunday his Royal Highness attended the episcopal church, which was exceedingly crowded. Dr. Inglis, the rector, afterwards Bishop of Nova Scotia, preached an appropriate sermon on the occasion, from the ninth verse of the twenty-third chapter of Deuteronomy, " When the host goeth forth against thine enemies, then keep thee from every wicked thing." Towards the close of this eloquent discourse, the doctor dwelt emphatically upon the unexampled instance of regard and confidence shewn to the King in sending a favourite son to such a distance, and at so great a risk, more for the sake of conciliation than the prolongation of hostilities.

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Rodney closed his glorious professional career by the defeat and capture of the Comte de Grasse.

This grand victory is well known to have been achieved by the breaking the enemy's line, which manœuvre was now, for the first time, carried into effect. As, however, attempts have been made to deprive Admiral Rodney of the honour of this capital improvement in naval tactics, it may be worth while to say something on the subject.

The claimant set up in opposition to the gallant officer, is Mr. John Clerk, of Eldin, the author of an "Essay on Naval Tactics."

The Edinburgh Reviewers, in a long critique on this volume, not content with eulogizing their countryman's scientific talents, had the temerity to throw out reflections upon the highest characters in the British navy. In their Number for July, 1805, not three months before the battle of Trafalgar, the reviewers closed their article on the work of Mr. Clerk with these invidious questions :

"When peerages and pensions are voted with a prudent liberality to every admiral who leads British seamen into battle, is it not humiliating to consider, that the great inventor of naval tactics has received no tribute of national approbation or applause? While the humblest of his disciples, the most mechanical interpreter of his instructions, is elevated to the highest pinnacle of popularity and fortune, is it not unaccountable, that their acknowledged preceptor should be permitted to fall into neglect and oblivion, and to grow old, without being visited by one ray of public acknowledgment or distinction?"

This claim brought on a controversy, in which other names were introduced, particularly Sir Charles Douglas and Lord Cranstoun, who were said, without any foun-

dation, to have suggested the manœuvre of cutting the line, which Admiral Rodney so successfully executed.

In direct contradiction to all these laboured efforts to lessen the fame of the noble veteran, then in his grave, let us take the evidence of an unprofessional and unbiassed witness. The late Richard Cumberland, in his entertaining memoirs, says, "It happened to me to be present, and sitting next to Admiral Rodney, at table, when the thought seemed first to occur to him of breaking the French line, by passing through it in the heat of action. It was at Lord George Germaine's house, at Stoneland, after dinner, when, having asked a number of questions about manœuvring of columns, and the effect of charging with them in a line of infantry, he proceeded to arrange a parcel of cherry-stones, which he had collected from the table, and, forming them as two fleets, drawn up and opposed to each other, he at once arrested our attention, which had not been very generally engaged by his preparatory inquiries, by declaring he was determined so to pierce the enemy's line of battle (arranging his manœuvre at the same time on the table), if ever it was his fortune to bring them to action.

"I dare say this passed with some as mere rhapsody, and all seemed to regard it as a very perilous and doubtful experiment; but landsmen's doubts and difficulties made no impression on the admiral, who having seized the idea, held it fast, and, in his eager animated way, went on manœuvring his cherry-stones, and throwing the enemy's representatives into such utter confusion, that, already in possession of that victory, in imagination, which in reality he lived to gain, he concluded his process by swearing he would lay the French admiral's flag at his sovereign's feet—a promise which he actually

pledged to his Majesty in his closet, and faithfully and gloriously performed.

“That he carried this projected manœuvre into operation, and that the effect of it was successfully decisive, all the world knows. My friend, Sir Charles Douglas, captain of the fleet, confessed to me that he himself had been adverse to the experiment, and, in discussing it with the Admiral, had stated his objections: to these he got no other answer, but that ‘his counsel was not called for: he required obedience only—he did not want advice.’ Sir Charles also told me, that whilst this project was in operation, (the battle then raging,) his own attention being occupied by the gallant defence made by the *Glorieux* against the ships that were pouring their fire into her, upon his crying out, ‘Behold, Sir George, the Greeks and Trojans contending for the body of Patroclus!’ the Admiral, then pacing the deck in great agitation, finding that the experiment of the manœuvre, in the instance of one ship, had unavoidably miscarried, peevishly exclaimed, ‘D—— the Greeks, and d—— the Trojans! I have other things to think of!’ When, in a few minutes after, the supporting ship having led through the French line in a gallant style, turning with a smile of joy to Sir Charles Douglas, he cried out, ‘Now, my dear friend, I am at the service of your Greeks and Trojans, and the whole of Homer’s *Iliad*, or as much of it as you please; for the enemy is in confusion, and our victory is secure.’ ”

“This anecdote,” says Cumberland, “correctly as I relate it, I had from that gallant officer, Sir Charles Douglas, untimely lost to his country, whose candour scorned to rob his Admiral of one leaf of his laurels: and who, disdaining all share in this manœuvre, nay,

confessing he had objected to it, did in the most pointed and decided terms again and again repeat his honourable attestations to the courage and conduct of his commanding officer in that memorable day."

Admiral Rodney himself used to say, before his claim to the manœuvre was ever called in question, that he first conceived the idea of it in France, during a conversation at the table of the Marechal de Biron.

But, in truth, this was not the first trial of the experiment by Admiral Rodney, for, in his action with Don Juan de Langara, he tried the same experiment, as far as circumstances would allow.

Though encumbered with a large convoy, and on a lee-shore in tempestuous weather, yet when he found that it was the enemy's intention to form in line of battle, he made a disposition to pass through it, and engage to leeward, the better to prevent their escape. This was the first instance, in modern times, of a decided plan to break through the enemy's line.

Again the British commander put his theory to trial in his partial action with the French fleet under De Guichen, on the 17th of April, 1780. For this we need only adduce the evidence of De Guichen himself, who in his official despatch says, "The English Admiral manœuvred with the intention of passing through our line, and to cut off the rear guard, in which attempt he doubled one of our ships, but did not succeed in his plan."

Of his victory on the 12th of April, 1782, Admiral Rodney, however, thought little. He had a contemptuous opinion of the character and conduct of De Grasse, but always spoke in the highest terms of that of De Guichen, whom he considered as the best officer in the French service; and he looked on this opportunity of beating such a

commander with an inferior fleet, as one by which, but for the disobedience of some of his own captains, he might have gained immortal renown. Mr. Clerk, in advancing his claim to the project of cutting the line, made an assertion which was palpably false. He said that when in London in January, 1780, he communicated the naval ideas which had long been working in his imagination, to Sir George Rodney, through the medium of a friend. Now, it so happened that the Admiral was not in London either then or for some weeks preceding Christmas-eve, 1779, when he sailed from St. Helen's, and before New Year's day was clear of the Channel.

For this digression, it is presumed, no apology can be deemed necessary, since the subject affects the national honour, no less than the professional reputation of the great commander, under whom his present Majesty may be said to have gained his first laurels in a naval battle.

Prince William being desirous of a more active life than he spent at New York, requested permission of Admiral Digby to go on board the Warwick of fifty guns, then commanded by Captain Elphinstone, afterwards Lord Keith. The Admiral consented; and in that ship he continued for about three or four months, cruising chiefly between Long Island and the Capes of Virginia. While thus employed, Captain Elphinstone had the good fortune, off the Delaware, to capture a French frigate, a corvette, and their prize. As this piece of service was achieved under very peculiar circumstances, and was, we believe, the last in which the Prince was engaged on the American coast, we shall give Captain Elphinstone's own narrative, in his letter to Admiral Pigot, dated at sea, September 22, 1782.

“I have the honour to inform you, that in the evening of the 11th, some strange vessels were discovered from on board his Majesty’s ships *Lion* and *Vestal*, which were chased in consequence of my signal, and occasioned our separation. On the morning of the 12th, five sail were seen from off the deck; two were to windward, whose appearance led me to think they were enemies; the three to leeward, I had every reason to believe, were his Majesty’s ships under my orders: these circumstances induced me to chase to windward. About seven in the morning I was joined by the *Bonetta* sloop. Captain Keats informed me, that the ships to windward were men-of-war, and had declined to answer the private signals which he had offered them the night before. Thus joined, we continued the chase, tacking occasionally until nine, when a third ship stood across from the eastward, shewing signals unknown to me, and firing guns. So soon as he found his signals were not answered, he changed his course, as I did my chase; this latter being the nearest and leewardmost. At twelve o’clock the chase hoisted French colours, and soon after struck. It was the *Sophie* from Bayonne to Philadelphia, with a cargo on board, armed with twenty-two nine-pounders, one hundred and four men, completely fitted for war, and quite new. From the prisoners I learnt that the *Sophie* had parted from *L’Aigle* and *Gloire*, two French frigates, having a brig under their convoy, for America; and that the frigates had many passengers of rank on board, with a large sum of money. By this time the *Lion* and *Vestal* were at no great distance. I sent an officer to desire Captain Fooks to use every effort to gain the *Delaware*, and there to anchor in such a situation as would most effectually prevent the enemy from enter-

ing; and that I would follow in his Majesty's ship the instant the prisoners were shifted. At this time the wind was out of the river, blowing strong.

"On the 13th, at day-light, the enemy were seen at anchor without Cape Henlopen light-house, with his Majesty's brig *Racoon* in company, their prize. The signal was made to chase; the enemy weighed, and ran into the river. At this instant the wind shifted to the eastward, which enabled the *Warwick* and *Vestal* to weather them. Being thus cut off from the proper channel, it remained only for the French commodore to determine whether he would bring-to, and engage a superior force, or attempt finding a passage among the sand banks, called the *Shears*, where his Majesty's ships, by reason of their drawing more water, might not be able to follow them. He chose the latter, and ran up the false channel, where I did not hesitate to follow; for though the risk was great, the object was considerable. Unfortunately, neither of the King's ships had a pilot: here the enemy had an advantage, as I am well informed the pilot of the *Racoon* had not honesty enough to resist the offer of five hundred louis d'ors, and that he took charge of their ships. About twelve o'clock I was obliged to anchor, on account of shallow water, and was joined by the *Lion*, *Bonetta*, and *Sophie* prize-ship. The enemy anchored at the same time. The boats of the squadron were ordered out to sound, and the *Bonetta*, Captain *Keats*, to go ahead, and lead in the best water. In this manner we kept sailing and anchoring, as circumstances permitted, until the 15th, the enemy all this time retiring with the same precautions.

"At three in the afternoon, the signal was made to weigh; soon after the enemy were under sail, evidently

in great confusion, changing their course frequently on account of shallow water. About six in the evening, the Bonetta made the signal for being in shallow water, and very soon after to anchor immediately, which was done in four fathoms and a half. A boat then came on board to inform me, that it was impossible to advance further; however, to counterbalance this mortification, we had the satisfaction to see the largest of the enemy run aground and stick fast. I sent Mr. Lock, first lieutenant of the Warwick, with orders to Captain Fooks of the Vestal, and Captain Keats of the Bonetta, that they should run upon each quarter of the enemy, as near as possible, and attack. Mr. Lock, after having delivered my orders, was directed to take command of the Sophie, now furnished with one hundred and fifty men from the Warwick and Lion, and join the attack. In justice to these officers, I must acknowledge that my orders were put in execution with a celerity and address that does them credit. The Vestal ran aground close on the starboard quarter, the Bonetta within two hundred yards on the larboard quarter; and the third ship, placing herself under the stern, the French commodore found himself obliged to surrender, on the Vestal's beginning to fire, not having a gun to bear on any of our ships. Thus, owing to the good conduct of the captains and other officers, employed on this service, and the activity of the men, was L'Aigle of forty guns, the finest frigate ever sent forth from Europe, taken possession of, for his Majesty. She was commanded by Comte La Touche, bearing a broad pendant; an officer of great reputation, and, if I may be allowed an opinion, who made great exertions to extricate himself from his difficulties; he cut away the masts, and bored the bottom, before she struck. L'Aigle mounts twenty-

eight guns on the main deck ; twenty-four pounders and twelve nine-pounders on the quarter-deck and forecastle ; with upwards of six hundred men on board. The Baron Virminil, commander-in-chief of the French army, Monsieur de Montmorency, Duke Lauzun, Vicomte de Fleury, and some other officers of rank, escaped on shore in the same boats which took away a great part of their treasure ; but two small casks, and two boxes, have fallen into our hands : the *Gloire*, drawing less water than *L'Aigle*, got up the river. So soon as the King's ships were got off the ground, and in safety, every body was employed to save the prize, which, with much labour, under the management of Captain Fooks, was effected on the 17th. On the 20th, in running down the bay, I observed two brigs, which had been prevented from getting up the river, in the act of landing their cargoes. I ordered the *Vestal* to dislodge the people on board, and send the boats to burn them, which was done."

Soon after the return of the *Warwick* to Sandy Hook, Admiral Sir Samuel Hood arrived there from the West Indies, in order to intercept the Marquess de Vaudreuil, who then lay at Boston ready to start for Cape François, in the island of St. Domingo.

Pursuant to his Majesty's express injunction, transmitted to Admiral Digby, his Royal Highness Prince William-Henry was then placed under the immediate care of Sir Samuel Hood in the *Barfleur* ; partly, perhaps, to avoid a repetition of the nefarious attempt upon his person, and partly for his further improvement in naval tactics.

Meanwhile, a change of measures in Europe had produced a mutual inclination to peace, on which General Carleton and Admiral Digby transmitted the

intelligence to General Washington in the following letter :

“ SIR,

“ August 2, 1782.

“ The pacific disposition of the Parliament and people of England towards the Thirteen Provinces, has already been communicated to you, and the resolution of the House of Commons, of the 27th of February last, has been placed in your Excellency's hands, and intimations given at the same time that further pacific measures were likely to follow. Since which, until the present time, we had no direct communications from England ; but a mail is now arrived, which brings us very important information.

“ We are acquainted, Sir, by authority, that negotiations for a general peace have already commenced at Paris ; and that Mr. Grenville is invested with full powers to treat with all parties at war, and is now at Paris in the execution of his commission.

“ And we are further, Sir, made acquainted, that his Majesty, in order to remove all obstacles to that peace which he so ardently wished to restore, has commanded his Ministers to direct Mr. Grenville, that the Independency of the Thirteen Provinces should be proposed by him, in the first instance, instead of making it a condition of a general treaty ; however, not without the highest confidence, that the Loyalists shall be restored to their possessions, or a full compensation made them for whatever confiscations may have taken place.

“ With respect to Mr. Laurens, we are to acquaint you, that he has been enlarged, and discharged from all engagements, without any condition whatever ; after which, he declared, of his own accord, that he considered Lord Cornwallis as freed from his parole. Upon this point, we are to desire your Excellency's sentiments, or those of Congress.

“ We are further acquainted, that transports have been prepared in England for conveying all the American prisoners to this country, to be exchanged here ; and we are directed to urge, by every consideration of humanity, the most speedy exchange ;

a measure in which, not only the comforts, but the rights of individuals, are concerned. A proposition has already been made, that all exchanges of men of the same description being exhausted, sailor and soldier shall be immediately exchanged, man for man, against each other, with this condition annexed, that your sailors shall be at liberty to serve the moment they are exchanged; and the soldiers, so received by us, shall not serve in or against the Thirteen Provinces for one year; and from this proposition we do not wish to recede.

“ We have the honour to be your Excellency’s most obedient and most humble servants,

“ GEORGE CARLETON—R. DIGBY.”

Henry Laurens, here mentioned, had been President of the Congress, and was going to Holland for the purpose of negotiating an alliance between the two republics, when the vessel, in which he sailed as a passenger, was taken; and, on the 6th of October, 1780, the Privy-Council committed him to the Tower, on a charge of treason. He remained there till the 31st of December, 1781, when he was admitted to bail, as a British subject, and afterwards was discharged.

It was at this time that the Prince and Horatio Nelson first became acquainted. That extraordinary man, then only twenty-four years of age, commanded the Albemarle frigate; and on the 11th of November, 1782, he arrived at Sandy Hook, where he found Admiral Hood in the Barfleur, with twelve sail of the line. When he waited on Admiral Digby, that officer said, “ You are come on a fine station for making prize-money,” “ Yes, Sir,” replied Nelson, “ but the West Indies is the station for honour.” He soon after went on board the Barfleur, and anxiously requested Admiral Hood to get the Albemarle placed under his orders; a favour which was not obtained

without much difficulty, so highly was Nelson's professional merit then appreciated by his superiors, and those, too, of the greatest rank and experience.

Of this first interview between the Prince and Nelson, Dr. Clarke, now canon of Windsor, was favoured with the following account by his Royal Highness, then Duke of Clarence, in a conversation at Bushy Park.

"I was then a midshipman on board the *Barfleur*, lying in the Narrows off Staten Island, and had the watch on deck; when Captain Nelson of the *Albemarle* came in his barge alongside. He appeared to be the merest boy of a Captain I ever beheld, and his dress was worthy of attention. He had on a full-laced uniform, his lank unpowdered hair was tied in a stiff Hessian tail of an extraordinary length: the old-fashioned flaps of his waistcoat, added to the general quaintness of his figure, produced an appearance which particularly attracted my notice, for I had never seen any thing like it before, nor could I imagine who he was, nor what he came about. My doubts were, however, removed, when Lord Hood introduced me to him. There was something irresistibly pleasing in his address and conversation; and an enthusiasm, when speaking on professional subjects, that shewed he was no common being. Nelson, after this, went with us to the West Indies, and served under Lord Hood's flag, during his indefatigable cruise off Cape François. Throughout the whole of the American war, the height of Nelson's ambition was to command a line-of-battle ship: as for prize-money, it never entered his thoughts; he had always in view the character of his maternal uncle. I found him warmly attached to my Father, and singularly humane. He had the honour of the King's service, and the independence of the British

navy, particularly at heart, and his mind glowed with this idea as much when he was simply Captain of the Albemarle, and had obtained none of the honours of his country, as when he was afterwards decorated with so much well-earned distinction."

On the 22d of November, Admiral Hood sailed from Sandy Hook for the West Indies, immediately on which, the French fleet under the Marquis de Vaudreuil left Boston for Cape François: finding, however, that the English Admiral had taken his station off that place to intercept him, he altered his course, pushed through the Mona passage, and took shelter in Porto Cavallo, on the coast of the Caraccas.

The British fleet then entered Port Royal in the island of Jamaica, where it remained during the winter, to the great joy of the inhabitants, who received the Prince with every demonstrable testimony of affection and respect. His friend Nelson, writing home to Captain Locker on the 25th of February, 1783, says:

"My situation in Lord Hood's fleet must be in the highest degree flattering to any young man; he treats me as if I were his son, and will, I am convinced, give me any thing I can ask of him. Nor is my situation with Prince William less flattering. Lord Hood was so kind as to tell him, (indeed, I cannot make use of expressions strong enough to describe what I felt,) that if he wished to ask questions relative to naval tactics, I could give him as much information as any officer in the fleet. He will be, I am certain, an ornament to our service. He is a seaman, which you could hardly suppose, with every other qualification you may expect from him; but he will be a disciplinarian, and a strong one. A vast deal of notice has been taken of him at Jamaica; he

has been addressed by the Council, and the House of Assembly was to address him the day after I sailed. He has his levees at Spanish Town; they are all highly delighted with him: with the best temper, and great good sense, he cannot fail of being pleasing to every one."

During the stay of his Royal Highness in Jamaica, the planters and merchants raised a body of cavalry, for the express purpose of attending his person as a guard of honour. This corps was called Prince William-Henry's regiment. But that which had been for some time clearly foreseen, now took place.

On the 30th of November, 1782, the preliminaries of peace between the belligerent powers were signed at Paris; and soon after, hostilities entirely ceased on all sides.

Thus ended a war, marked with more than common asperity, and which had been carried on, for above seven years, on the part of Britain, at an immense expense of blood and treasure, against four powers, only one of whom gained any thing by the contest. France was repaid for her treachery, in meddling with a concern which no way affected her, by a revolutionary contagion, that in a few years overthrew the monarchy, and spread destruction through all her provinces and dependencies. The primary instrument of this tremendous change was La Fayette, who, at the outset of the dispute between America and the parent country, embarked as a volunteer in the cause of the insurgents. That this was contrary to the law of nations, could not admit of a doubt; yet, when the late Earl of Carlisle went to America, as the head of a commission empowered to bring about a cessation of hostilities, La Fayette, in the true spirit of Quixotism, sent his lordship a challenge. The letters which passed on this

strange occasion are sufficiently curious and characteristic to deserve a place in this memoir.

Both parties were young men, it is true ; but which acted with most dignity, will appear from the epistles. That of the Frenchman is couched in the ancient style of chivalry, when the self-devoted knight entered the lists, armed at all points, to defend the insulted honour and title of his sovereign.

“ TO THE EARL OF CARLISLE,

“ I did not imagine, my Lord, that I ever should have had any transactions but with your generals, and expected not the honour of seeing them, but at the head of the armies which they respectively command. Your letter of the 26th of August, to the Congress of the United States, and the terms of insult, respecting my country, to which you have signed your name, is the sole cause of my having any thing now to settle with your Lordship. I deign not to refute the aspersion, but I desire to punish it. It is from you, as chief of the commission, that I demand a reparation as public as hath been the offence, and which must give the LIE to the expression you have used. I should not have delayed this demand so long, if your letter had reached me sooner : obliged to be absent a few days, I hope to find your answer at my return. M. Guimot, a French officer, will settle, on my part, the time and place of our meeting, to suit your Lordship's conveniency. I doubt not but, for the honour of his countryman, General Clinton will attend you to the field. As to me, my Lord, it is indifferent who attends you, provided that, to the glory of being a Frenchman, I join that of proving to a gentleman of your country, that no one dares to insult mine with impunity.

(Signed) “ LA FAYETTE.”

To this gasconade, the noble commissioner returned the following answer, and here the business ended :

“SIR—I have received your letter, transmitted to me from M. Guimot, and I confess I find it difficult to return a serious answer to its contents. The only one that can be expected from me, as the King’s commissioner, and which you ought to have known, is, that I do, and ever shall, consider myself solely responsible to my Country and King, and not to any individual, for my public conduct and language. As for any opinion or expressions contained in any publications issued under the commission in which I have the honour to be named, unless they are retracted in public, you may be assured I shall never, in any change of situation, be disposed to give an account of them, much less recall them, in private.

“The inquiry alluded to in the correspondence of the King’s commissioners to the Congress, I must remind you, is not of a private nature; and I conceive all national disputes will be best decided by the meeting of Admiral Byron and Count D’Estaing.”

“New York, Oct. 11, 1778.” (Signed) “CARLISLE.”

The sword of war being now sheathed, and the services of the Prince no longer necessary in the West Indies, his Royal Highness began to make his preparations for returning to England. Previous to his departure, however, he expressed a wish to make a tour round the islands. Admiral Hood very readily complied with this request, and accordingly the *Fortunée* frigate, Captain Christian, was appointed to convey his Royal Highness on this survey, with his suite, consisting of Captains Goodall, Rowley, and Merrick. During the cruise, the Prince touched at Cape François, on the French side of Hispaniola, or Saint Domingo, where his Royal Highness landed, and was received with all the military honours due to his exalted birth.

Soon after his return to Jamaica, Don Galvez, governor of the Havannah, to which he had been lately appointed, visited Cape François, from whence he despatched a fast-sailing vessel to Port Royal with a letter to Prince William-Henry. In order to explain the subject of this interesting correspondence, it is necessary to preface it with a short statement.

On the 8th of May, 1781, the province of West Florida surrendered to a large Spanish force, commanded by Don Galvez, governor of Louisiana, after he had besieged Pensacola, the capital, two months. By the terms of the capitulation, the prisoners were to remain until regularly exchanged. Some were sent to the Havannah, but the greater part were removed to Natchez, in Louisiana, on their parole. The natural impatience of men under restraint, and in such a climate, induced several of these unfortunate captives to enter into a plot for the seizure of the place, in which scheme they found means to gain the concurrence of many of the inhabitants. The design, however, was frustrated, and the most active of those concerned in it were summarily tried by a military tribunal, and condemned to death. The sentence was not put in execution when Don Galvez went to the Havannah, and from thence to Cape François, where, if Prince William had not sailed, he would have tendered this peace-offering in person. As it was, he lost no time in paying the tribute of humanity by the following letter.

Cape François, April 6, 1783.

“SIR,—The Spanish troops cantoned throughout the country, have not, as the French, had the happiness to take up their arms to salute your Royal Highness, nor that of paying you those marks of respect and consideration which are your due: it is what they will ever regret.

“I have in confinement, at Louisiana, the principal person concerned in the revolt at Natchez, with some of his accomplices. They have forfeited their parole and oath of fidelity. A council of war, founded on equitable laws, has condemned them to death, and the execution of their sentence waits only my confirmation, as governor of the colony. They are all English. Will you be pleased, Sir, to accept their pardon and their lives, in the name of the Spanish army, and of my King? It is, I trust, the greatest present that can be offered to one Prince in the name of another. Mine is generous, and will approve my conduct.

“In case your Royal Highness deigns to interest yourself for these unfortunate men, I have the honour to send enclosed an order for their being delivered the moment any vessel arrives at Louisiana communicating your pleasure. We shall consider ourselves happy, if this can be agreeable to you. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

“B. D. GALVEZ.”

To this letter His Royal Highness sent the following answer by Captain Manley Dixon, of the Tobago sloop of war.

“*Port Royal, Jamaica, April 13, 1783.*

“SIR,—I want words to express to your Excellency my just sense of your polite letter, of the delicate manner in which you caused it to be delivered, and your generous conduct towards the unfortunate. Their pardon, which you have been pleased to grant on my account, is the most agreeable present you could have offered me, and is strongly characteristic of the bravery and gallantry of the Spanish nation. This instance increases, if possible, my opinion of your Excellency’s humanity, which has appeared on so many occasions in the course of the late war.

“Admiral Rowley is to despatch a vessel to Louisiana for the prisoners; I am convinced they will ever think of your Excellency’s clemency with gratitude; and I have sent a copy of your letter to the King my father, who will be fully sensible of your Excellency’s attention to me.

“ I request my compliments to Madame Galvez, and that you will be assured, that actions so noble as those of your Excellency will ever be remembered by,

(Signed)

“ WILLIAM HENRY.”

His Royal Highness, thinking that he could do no otherwise than visit the Havannah, embarked again on board the *Fortunée*, on the 26th of the same month, accompanied by the *Albemarle*, Captain Nelson. As it was not intended that his Royal Highness should return again to Port Royal, Lord Hood soon after followed with his whole fleet, and remained off the Havannah, to wait for the Prince. His Lordship, on this occasion, sent, as a present to the Governor of the Havannah, a sirloin of beef that had been roasted, and a buttock that had been boiled, in England. On the 11th of May, Nelson was despatched to Saint Augustine, to take on board the English who had been detained there since the surrender of Florida; he then sailed for England, where he arrived only one day before the Prince, who landed at Spithead on the 26th of June, 1783.

The departure of the young hero was very much regretted by the inhabitants of Jamaica, into whose affections he had ingratiated himself by his lively manners, kindly disposition, and generous spirit. One instance out of many, of his humanity, is thus related in a letter from a naval officer, then on that station, to his friends in England.

“ The last time Lord Hood’s fleet was here, a court martial was held on Mr. Benjamin Lee, midshipman, for disrespect to a superior officer; at which Lord Hood sat as president. The determination of the court was fatal to the prisoner, and he was condemned to death. Deeply affected as the whole body of

midshipmen were at the dreadful sentence, they knew not how to obtain a mitigation of it; since Mr. Lee was ordered for execution, while they had not time to make an appeal to the Admiralty, and despaired of a petition to Admiral Rowley. However, his Royal Highness generously stepped forth, drew up a petition, to which he was the first to set his name, and solicited the rest of the midshipmen in port to follow his example. He, then, himself carried the petition to Admiral Rowley, and, in the most pressing and urgent manner, begged the life of an unhappy brother; in which he succeeded, and Mr. Lee is reprieved. We all acknowledge our warmest and grateful thanks to our humane, our brave and worthy Prince, who has so nobly exerted himself in preserving the life of his brother sailor."

Thus terminated, more gloriously to himself than to his country, the first period of the life of Prince William-Henry. The crown which he was destined by Providence, in the course of half a century, to wear, had, indeed, now lost one of its jewels; but it was not a little remarkable, that he alone, of all his family, should have appeared in battle, to preserve the diadem entire.

Here we shall be excused for concluding with a singular anecdote. Mariners are much given to put faith in omens, and, just before the close of this disastrous war, they had one exactly to their humour. At the beginning of 1782, the *Atlas*, of ninety-guns, was launched at Chatham: when they came to ship her bowsprit, the figure stood so high, that it was necessary to cut away part of the globe upon his shoulders; and that part happened to be North America. Sailors regarded this as inauspicious; and time has not weakened their credulity.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1783 to 1785.

THEIR Majesties were at St. James's when the Prince arrived at Windsor: on which, a messenger was despatched to town with the welcome intelligence; and the whole Royal Family, then in England, were soon collected, forming a happy circle on the joyful occasion.

His Royal Highness had not as yet attained his eighteenth year; yet, of him it might have been said, that

“ Qui mores hominum multorum vidit, et urbes :”

he had seen human life in various forms, and witnessed wonderful changes.

The piping-time of peace, however, did not repress his ardour, or induce him to seek pleasure in the lap of repose and luxury. As much at his own desire, as that of his Royal Father, the Prince made preparations for a visit to Germany.

Nelson, writing to his friend Captain Locker, on the 13th of July, says,—“ On Monday or Tuesday I am to be at Windsor, to take leave of Prince William, previous to his embarkation for the Continent. Captain Merrick, a young man of Lord Hood's bringing up, is to be with him.”

On the morning of the 31st, his Royal Highness left Buckingham House for Greenwich, accompanied by his

old tutor, General Bude, and Captain Merrick. At the Hospital, the Prince was received by Sir Hugh Palliser the Governor, and conducted into the grand council-room, where he was introduced to the several officers respectively. His Royal Highness was afterwards attended by the Governor to the Painted Hall, and the other principal parts of that noble building. Having inspected the several departments of the Hospital, he was shewn, at his own request, the apartments of the officers, and those of the pensioners. About half-after twelve, the Prince embarked on board the Princess Augusta yacht, Captain George Vandeput, which fell down the river the same tide; and, on the 1st of August, arrived at Stadt, where his Royal Highness was waited upon by the Regency and citizens, with every mark of respect. The next day he departed for Hanover, and there met his brother, Frederick, the secular Bishop of Osnaburg, whom he had not seen for nearly three years.

After a short stay at Hanover, Prince William, under the travelling name of Lord Fielding, visited Berlin, with his brother; and at Potsdam they had an interview with the great Frederick; who, notwithstanding his advanced age, still retained his mental energies and bodily activity. The old king had, for some time, been employing himself on two objects, neither of which, at an earlier period of his life, occupied much of his attention. These were agriculture and commerce. "The former," he said, "while it furnished profitable employment for the soldier in peace, tended to enrich their superiors, and benefited the nation—the latter promoted industry, and gave encouragement to the spirit of enterprise." At this time Frederick had the gratification of seeing the fruits of his pacific conduct, so different from that career in which he

had gained false glory, and the equivocal appellation of the Great.

The maritime provinces were no less flourishing than the interior; and, in the Prussian ports, which, some years before, had scarcely any shipping, there were above fifteen hundred vessels, which gave employment to fifteen thousand men. These solid improvements drew from the veteran monarch the confession, that wars are terrible, and, at the best, nothing but a waste of blood. Yet he still kept up his annual reviews on an extensive scale, in Silesia; whither he was attended by the two English Princes, and their uncle, the Duke of Brunswick.

They repeated their visit on the same occasion, the next year. But the appearance of the army, and their conduct, gave so little satisfaction to the king, that, after his return to Potsdam, he wrote the following angry letter to the commander-in-chief:—

“ MY DEAR GENERAL VON TAUENZEIN,

“ I WILL herewith repeat with my pen, what I mentioned to you when I was in Silesia—that my army there has never been in such bad discipline as it is at present. If I were to make shoemakers and tailors generals, the regiment could not be worse. The regiment of Tadden’s is not to be compared to the most insignificant land-battalion of a Prussian army. Rolkirch and Schwartz are not worth much, neither. Zarembo is in such disorder, that I intend to send one of the officers of my own regiment to bring it in order again. The fellows in Von Erlach’s regiment, are so spoiled by smuggling, that they have not the appearance of soldiers. Keller’s is like unto a parcel of rough unmannerly boors. Hager’s has a miserable commander; and your regiment is very middling. It is only with Count Von Anhalt, Wendessein, and Heinrich, I can be satisfied. See—so are the details. I will now describe the manœuvres.

“Schwartz makes the unpardonable mistake near Neisse, not to cover sufficiently the heights on the left wing—if it had been in earnest, the battle would have been lost.

“Erlach, by Breslaw, instead of covering the army, by placing troops on the heights, marched with his division, like cabbages and turnips, in defile; so that, if it had been in earnest, the cavalry of the enemy would have cut the infantry to pieces, and the battle have been lost.

“I don't intend to lose battles through the laziness of my Generals; therefore, I herewith command you, that, in case I am alive next year, you march with the army between Breslaw and Olaw; and, four days before I come to the camp, that you manœuvre with the ignorant Generals, and shew them their duty.”

The winter being exceedingly severe, not only in Germany, but all over the Continent, prevented the royal traveller from proceeding, as he intended, into Switzerland and Italy. His time, therefore, was chiefly divided between Brunswick, Hanover, and Osnaburg; with which last city he was particularly pleased, on account of its handsome structures, and the liberal spirit and activity of the inhabitants. At Lunenburg, he applied to the study of the German system of military tactics, both in principle and practice, as essentially necessary to a thorough knowledge of the science of war. When the spring opened, his Royal Highness left Hanover for Gottingen; where he attended the lectures of Michaelis, and one or two other professors. From thence he went to Cassel, and there met a welcome reception from the Electoral family, to whom he was nearly related, and who were then in deep affliction for the recent loss of the eldest son of the Hereditary Prince.

After crossing the Rhine at Mannheim, the Prince and his friends pursued their course, in the direction of that

river, to Basle; thence, to Neufchatel, Lausanne, and Geneva. The wonders of Switzerland took up nearly six weeks in exploring; and the summer being now advanced, the party descended into the Valteline; and, after traversing part of Savoy, Piedmont, and the Milanese territory, re-entered Germany, through the mountainous region of the Tyrol. From Inspruck, they directed their course to Munich; and, having crossed the Danube at Passaw, followed that river to Ratisbon, from whence they hastened to Prague, near which city, a grand Imperial review was appointed to be held in the beginning of September.

Here they were met by the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, who, under the travelling title of Count Hoya, arrived at the Imperial camp of Hautplatein. Both Princes were received with extraordinary marks of distinction by the Emperor Joseph; who, among other entertainments, gave a masked ball at Prague, upon a more splendid and extended scale than had ever been known in that city. There was something so very fascinating in the manners and conversation of this celebrated sovereign, that they who approached him, whatever might have been their previous sentiments of his public conduct, departed with an impression in his favour, and an inclination to excuse his capricious ambition. He was affable, obliging, and perfectly free from that reserve and haughtiness which some potentates assume on account of their birth, and even consider as necessary to their dignity. It was his opinion, that the vanity and ignorance of many princes were generally owing to the forms in which they were entrenched, and to their being deprived of the advantages possessed by persons in a lower station—that of a free interchange of sentiment.

One evening, at the Countess of Walstein's, the Emperor took occasion to turn the discourse upon the restrictions to which princes were subjected, by forms and prescriptive rules originating in the pride of rank. His Majesty enumerated some ludicrous and remarkable instances of the inconveniences of etiquette, which he had observed at certain courts. One person present hinted at the effectual means the Emperor himself had used, to banish every inconveniency of that kind from the Court of Vienna. To which he replied, "It would be hard indeed, if, because I have the ill fortune to be an Emperor, I should be deprived of the pleasures of social life, which are so much to my taste. All the grimace and parade to which people in my situation are accustomed from infancy, have not made me so vain as to imagine that I am in any essential quality superior to other men; and if I had any tendency to such an opinion, the surest way to get rid of it is the method I take of mixing in society, where I have daily opportunities of finding myself inferior in talents to those I meet with. Conscious of this, it would afford me no enjoyment to assume airs of a superiority which I feel does not exist. I endeavour, therefore, to please and be pleased; and, as much as the inconveniency of my situation will permit, to enjoy the blessings of society like other persons; convinced that the man who is secluded from these pleasures, and raises his mind above friendship, does it at the expense of his personal happiness, by depriving himself of the means of acquiring knowledge."

Though ambitious in a high degree, the Emperor had no personal pride, nor any fondness for servile adulation. To the magistrates of Buda, in Hungary, who requested his permission to erect a statue of him in the

public square of their city, he returned this answer :—
“ When all prejudices are laid aside, and when narrow systems shall have given place to sounder notions ; when every individual shall be enabled, by his industry, to contribute with pleasure to the necessities of the state ; when agriculture shall flourish, and prosperity universally prevail ; when the laws shall have their full force, and the arts become general ; when science shall have enlightened men’s minds, and emulation shall give life to every class of citizens ; then, and not till then, let a statue be raised to me ; but not now, when the city of Buda has received no extraordinary advantages from me, except in the circulation of its products, which is alike beneficial to commerce throughout the Empire.”

Joseph rendered a more effectual service to the Hungarians at this time, by measures for their improvement, than by giving them a statue. After refusing their request, he issued an edict for the total abolition of vassalage throughout Hungary ; and he also ordered, that the very name of such servitude, or rather slavery, should be for ever disused.

By this edict, every man was at liberty to marry ; to learn any art ; to work for himself ; to sell, mortgage, exchange, and alienate his property, only sending to his lord the accustomed fees ; in short, every vassal throughout the kingdom was restored to the full and perfect enjoyment of personal freedom, without any restriction.

The liberal spirit which dictated this reform, appears in the following declaration of the august author :—
“ I not only would unshackle the mind from a base superstition which enervates it, but I wish to direct its active powers to national services. Let the gloomy priest therefore be driven from his cloister, to benefit society by

his talents ; and let the most unenlightened monastics, who have been fettered by bigotry, and immured in darkness, come abroad to the light of day. Artisans, manufacturers, and agriculturists uphold a state ; while a multitude of religious drones encumber the land, and oppress its resources.”

Such acts, with the exertions he made to promote industry throughout all his dominions, and to encourage trade, by establishing commercial companies on the Danube, at Trieste, and Ostend, would have immortalized Joseph, as an example to all succeeding monarchs, had the rest of his conduct been equal. But though he possessed many estimable qualities, which might have been serviceable to his country, and to mankind in general, he was, after all, a very weak prince ; and while perhaps he really aimed at doing good, and rendering himself beloved, he did mischief, and created enemies. It has been truly said, that there is but a step from the sublime to the ridiculous. The Emperor Joseph, in his conduct, exemplified the observation to the fullest extent. At the same time that he was employed in drawing up edicts for the encouragement of manufactures, he published others interdicting coffins, and ordering that all the dead, under a certain rank, should be buried in sacks. Another decree prohibited the use of stays, as an article of female dress ; and the Imperial College of Physicians at Vienna was commanded to print and circulate a dissertation, for the better information of parents and teachers, who wished to preserve a handsome shape for their children and pupils.

These ordinances gave general dissatisfaction, and were treated with contempt. Young ladies chose rather to sacrifice their health, than be out of the fashion ; and

the matrons thought, not unreasonably, that his Imperial Majesty might have been better employed than in holding councils upon corsets and petticoats.

The edict against coffins raised a still more furious opposition; and the populace, in most parts of the Austrian dominions, proved too strong for the civil authorities, though supported by a military force. In consequence of this, the Emperor wrote a laconic proclamation, revoking the former decree, and permitting the dead to be buried in the old way. The ordinance which affected the ladies, fell silently into oblivion, as soon as it was issued; and the learned College was even saved the trouble of enforcing it by their recommendation.

The next objects of Joseph's displeasure were the free-masons; against whom he issued this curious proclamation:—

“WHEREAS, in all well-regulated states, nothing should, within a certain description, be permitted to subsist, without being confined to some particular rule and order, I have thought it necessary to enjoin what follows:

The assemblies of men called Free-masons, of whose secret I am as completely ignorant, as I have at all times been averse to inquire into their mysteries, are daily increasing, even in the smallest towns. Such meetings, left entirely to the discretion of their members, and subject to no kind of direction, may occasion many excesses, equally injurious to religion and good morals; as also induce the superiors, in consequence of a fanatical fellowship, to deviate from the strict path of rectitude, in regard to those who are their dependants, but not initiated into the mysteries of their order; and, in fine, occasion great and needless expenses. Already have other powers forbidden all such assemblies; already have the members been brought to

exemplary punishments, because their secrets were not universally known. Although I am myself very imperfectly in the confidence, it is enough for me to know that some good and benevolent acts have been performed by the masonic lodges, to provide in their favour better than has been done in other countries; therefore, although I am a stranger to their constitution, and to what is transacted at their meetings, these shall, nevertheless, be countenanced, under the patronage of the state, as long as they shall do good; therefore, the free-masons shall enjoy a formal toleration, upon their submitting to such regulations as shall be prescribed by me."

This fulmination against a social and charitable institution, of the nature of which the Emperor professed he knew nothing, gave little trouble to the brothers of the mystic order in the Austrian dominions, and their lodges continued to be held, as if no such edict had appeared. In Bavaria, however, the case was very different; for the Elector there put down all the lodges without reserve, and not only compelled every member of the fraternity to confess his being such, but to renounce the order upon oath, on penalty of fine and imprisonment. One motive for these denunciations of a harmless institution, was, the hatred which the Elector, and his friend the Emperor, had conceived towards Frederick the Great, who patronized free-masonry, and was the terror of his neighbours. The Emperor and Elector had formed a coalition for their mutual aggrandisement, by an exchange of territory, at the expense of the weaker states. The Prussian monarch, though verging on the grave, had his wits about him, and sent orders to his ambassador, to tell Joseph, that, as he did not wish for any increase of territory himself, he would take care that others should not have too much. This

put an end to the scheme for the present ; but the sagacious Frederick, well knowing the ambitious spirit of Joseph, determined upon a plan to counteract any further designs he might have, to the injury of the minor states of the Empire. This plan he communicated to the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, who lost no time in transmitting the same to the British court, where it underwent a long consideration. Full powers were then given to his Royal Highness to conclude a treaty with the King of Prussia, and other princes, on behalf of his Britannic Majesty, as Elector of Hanover. This confederation for the security of the Germanic constitution against all innovations, soon received an accession of associates ; among whom were the Electors of Saxony and Mentz, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, the Dukes of Brunswick, Saxe Weimar, Saxe Gotha, Deux Ponts, and the Prince of Anhalt.

The Emperor, on being apprised of the combination that was forming, to restrain him within the due limits prescribed by the Golden Bull, and other chartularies, made loud complaints, not unaccompanied with threats of a warlike nature. He endeavoured, also, to excite the spirit of jealousy among the courts that had not as yet formally given their assent to the treaty ; but, as he had on former occasions betrayed a disposition unfavourable to the Germanic liberties, his attempt to bring about a counter-confederation failed in every quarter.

In this defeat of the Imperial cabinet, the late Duke of York, though then only twenty-two years of age, had a principal concern ; and in two visits to Vienna, he succeeded in bringing the Emperor so far to reason, that the scheme of spoliation, negotiated between him and the Elector of Bavaria, was laid aside.

The restless spirit of Joseph now took another direction, and one still worse for his reputation. Taking advantage of the divisions which prevailed in Holland, and the impoverished state of the republic by the late war, the Emperor fancied he might be able to open a channel of commerce, and raise Antwerp to its former greatness. Accordingly, he demanded a free navigation of the Scheldt; a free trade to the East and West Indies; and the demolition of the Dutch fortresses on the above river. These requisitions were resisted, as contrary to the treaty of Munster. Joseph, however, persisted; and, by his order, an attempt was made to force a passage; of which, however, previous notice was given to the States General; signifying also, that his Imperial Majesty should look upon any obstruction offered to his vessel, as a declaration of war.

On the 8th of October, 1784, the brig *Louisa*, Captain Van Ingheim, sailed from Antwerp for Dunkirk. Volbergen, who commanded the Dutch ships of war stationed in the river, gave notice to the Austrian captain that he should be obliged to stop his proceeding any further; to which he received for answer, "That the Emperor had decreed the Scheldt open, and had ordered him to pass down it, which he intended to do, as in duty bound."

The Dutch commander, after renewing his friendly remonstrances to no purpose, fired a gun without a shot; but the Austrian still pursuing his way, a ball was fired; to which no respect being paid, it was followed by a whole broadside, and the Imperial flag was struck. The captain of the Austrian vessel was then politely told that he might return to Antwerp; but this offer he refused to accept, without orders from his court.

The Emperor was now at Brussels, whither he had gone post-haste, immediately after parting from the two English Princes at Prague.

The Imperial ambassador at the Hague was now recalled; all the troops in Austrian Flanders were put in motion; and extraordinary exertions were made in completing the works at Ostend. On the other hand, the Dutch strengthened their forces on the frontiers, and even cut some of the dykes between Utrecht and Lillo, by which all that part of the country was laid under water. These preparations, however, after spreading alarm throughout Europe, produced only a bloodless war of manifestoes; and the Emperor, finding that he should have more than the Dutch to contend with, gave up the contest, and fell upon his favourite object, the reform of the religious houses in the Netherlands, and the correction of ecclesiastical abuses in every part of his dominions. In Hungary, a remarkable circumstance occurred; and, as being characteristic of this paradoxical man, it deserves insertion. Cardinal Migazzy was bishop of Waitsen in that kingdom, and, at the same time, archbishop of Vienna. The Emperor, thinking that all this was too much for one man, insisted on his resigning the Hungarian bishopric. The Aulic chamber thought proper to interfere in favour of the cardinal.

“In the first place,” say the members of the Aulic chamber, in their expostulation, “her Imperial Majesty, our late Queen Maria Theresa, of glorious memory, conferred the bishopric on the cardinal, for him to enjoy during his natural life, and the pope confirmed it by his bull.”

Answer.—“My predecessors were at liberty to act as they thought fit; so am I. The bull then had a real object, which no longer exists.”

Secondly.—“ The cardinal, during his embassy to Spain, was obliged to contract very heavy debts, to the great detriment of his family’s fortune.”

Answer.—“ Every body knows, that neither the cardinal, nor any of his family, ever had any fortune to lose.”

Thirdly.—“ The cardinal has laid out six hundred thousand florins, in repairing the episcopal palace, and beautifying the city.”

Answer.—“ I have not examined whether the cardinal has actually laid out the stated sum ; but this I know, that his bishopric has brought him in above two millions of florins a year.”

Fourthly.—“ The cardinal is a magnate, or grandee, of Hungary, and cannot be deprived of his bishopric, without being first brought to a trial.”

Answer.—“ And I am King of Hungary, and know how I am to act with my magnates.”

Fifthly.—“ The council of Trent, it is true, expressly forbids any prelate holding two bishoprics *in commendam* ; but there is an exception, made in favour of illustrious personages, and men of eminent learning.”

Answer.—“ The cardinal has no right to be comprised amongst those for whom the exception is made : it regards only persons of high birth, and particularly the sons of sovereigns. As for the distinguished learning of the cardinal, I refer it to his diocesans within the archbishopric of Vienna.”

The Emperor Joseph the Second, like Charles the Fifth, was much in the habit of travelling about *incognito*, which produced many remarkable adventures.

A young Neapolitan being desirous of a military employment, which he could not obtain in his own country,

resolved to try his fortune in Austria. Accordingly, he set out, furnished with powerful letters of recommendation. On entering Germany, he put up at an obscure inn, where three travellers were at supper. His request to make one of the party was readily granted; and the evening passed very agreeably. In the course of conversation, the Italian related his history, and the object of his journey. One of the company, after hearing him, very tranquilly said, "I believe you have taken a long journey, without any chance of success—at a time when there is a general peace, and numbers of young men of quality are out of employment." The Neapolitan admitted the force of the remark; but said, he relied on his letters of recommendation, and should proceed, though his hopes were feeble. The Austrian gentleman then said, "Ay, well; as you are not to be turned from your project, I will give you a letter, which may be added to those you already have, addressed to the Mareschal Lascy."

The young adventurer received the letter, and pursued his route. Upon his arrival at Vienna, he presented himself to General Lascy, and laid before his excellency all the letters, except that of the stranger.

The general, after reading the testimonials, behaved very politely, but said, he was sorry that it was out of his power to render him any service. This did not prevent the young man from attending the military levee again; but still, though civilly treated, his suit was in vain. At length he thought of the letter which he had been favoured with on the road; but to which he attached so little importance, that he had thrown it into his portmanteau as unworthy of notice. Having found it, he, the next day, appeared again at the minister's audience, and

presented the letter, with a suitable apology for his negligence in not having delivered it before. The mareschal, on opening it, and looking at the contents, started, looked earnestly at the applicant, and asked if he knew from whom he had received that letter. "No," said the young man, "I never saw the gentleman before, nor do I know his name now." "It was the Emperor himself, Joseph the Second; you mentioned a sub-lieutenant's commission as the object of your desire; and his Majesty orders me to appoint you a lieutenant."

This, however, was caprice and whim, rather than generosity, in which virtue Joseph fell far short of his rival, Frederick the Great; who, though somewhat of a humourist, possessed considerable sensibility, as the following anecdote proves.

A lieutenant-colonel, in the Prussian service, having been disbanded at the close of the war, importuned the King to be reinstated. Tired with the incessant solicitations of his troublesome visitor, Frederick gave orders that he should never be admitted into his presence. Some weeks elapsed, when a most severe libel appeared against the monarch. The King seldom gave himself any concern about such pasquinades; but the present one affected him to such a degree, that he offered a reward of fifty Fredericks of gold, for the discovery of the author. The day following, the lieutenant-colonel, already mentioned, demanded and obtained an audience. On being admitted, he said, "Sire, your Majesty has just promised fifty Fredericks for the discovery of the author of a recent publication. I am come to claim the recompense. Behold in me the unfortunate libeller. My life I forfeit freely; but, remember your royal pledge, and, while you punish me, transmit to my poor

wife and children the reward due to the informer." The king, struck with the sad extremity, and self-immolation, of the officer, said, "Go you instantly to the fortress of Spandau, and there await my judgment." "I obey," replied the culprit; "but the money—." "Within two hours your wife shall receive it. Take this letter, and give it to the commander; but he is not to open it till after dinner."

The lieutenant-colonel arrived at Spandau; gave himself up, as a prisoner; and, at the moment prescribed, the governor read the royal mandate, as follows:

"To the bearer I give the command of Spandau. I shall be with him in a few days. The present governor is to take the command of Berlin, as a reward for past services.

"FREDERICK."

Such were these two remarkable potentates, whose opposite characters made an impression upon the minds of our royal travellers; but with a different effect—the elder Prince being best pleased with his great namesake, and the younger with the Emperor; probably because the unreserved and familiar manner of Joseph bore a near resemblance to his own disposition.

Another personage, with whom Prince William became now acquainted, for the first time, at Prague, was Prince George of Mecklenburg, the younger brother of Queen Charlotte. As the historians of the Royal Family have taken little, if any, notice of this amiable and accomplished prince, the following particulars, it is presumed, will not be considered as out of place.

Prince George was born at Strelitz, Aug. 16, 1748; and, on the marriage of his sister, he came to England. Here

he soon acquired a knowledge of the language, and became so much attached to the country, that he volunteered his services in the navy. After devoting two years to active duty on board the fleet, illness obliged him to quit the sea, and the climate, neither of which agreed with his constitution. On his recovery, he accepted the invitation of the Empress Queen, Maria Theresa, to enter into her service; and was made a lieutenant-colonel. Soon after he joined his regiment, it was frequently remarked by the lofty-minded Austrians, that the prince was more inclined to associate with the inferior than the superior officers. This so offended the high-born pride of the younger shoots of the ancient houses, who had nothing better to boast of than their descent, that one of them, by deputation, ventured to lay a complaint before the Empress, stating, that the lieutenant-colonel forgot he was the Prince of Mecklenburg. Her Majesty, who was a woman of extraordinary penetration, cast her eye sternly upon the delegate, and said, "Does he forget that he is a lieutenant-colonel?" The officer, astounded at this question, and the emphatic style in which it was expressed, faltered out in reply, and in an altered tone, "Oh, no, Madam, it must be admitted that he is a most assiduous officer." "Well, then," said the Empress, "since he does his duty, and does not forget my service, you will please not to forget to go this instant to Marechal Lascy, and tell him, in my name, to send Prince George of Mecklenburg, this very day, the commission of a full colonel."

When the generous prince, some time afterwards, became acquainted with the reflection that had been cast upon him, he coolly said, "Perhaps the gentleman forgot that my superiors neither love nor want me; but that

among my inferiors, there are some who really esteem me, and others who stand in need of my assistance."

In a short time, he was made general of horse, and honoured with various orders. In 1780 he became brigadier-general, and inspector of the two carabineer regiments, then considered the finest in the Imperial service. In 1782, at the camp of Prague, in Bohemia, consisting of fifty thousand infantry and cavalry, Prince George manœuvred with his troops so inimitably well, that the hills of Liaben resounded with echoes of applause from some of the most experienced officers in Europe. Even the Emperor himself cried out to the brave Caledonian marshal, who stood near him, "Well, Laudohn, what do you think of Mecklenburg now?" "Sire," answered the veteran Scot, "I think, if he was equally attached to the field as he is to the fair, he would be worth to your Majesty ten thousand men."

This prince was uncommonly kind to all British subjects—the companion of those who were rich, and the uniform patron of such as were poor. His love for the nation, indeed, went so far, that whoever spoke English, of whatever country they might be, was sure, if in distress, to be relieved. In his principles, he was a firm Protestant, and an enemy to every kind of intolerance; and there was nothing he so much found fault with in the English constitution, as its narrowness, in forcing so many honourable and brave subjects to seek employment in foreign countries, and even among the enemies of their native land, on account of their religion. A church that had belonged to a suppressed convent, at Prague, was ceded to the Protestants, by the Emperor, at his request, and supported by his munificence. If ever any prince was susceptible of friendship, it was George

of Mecklenburg. He was often heard to say, that he never forsook a friend, till the person, in whom he had placed confidence, first forsook him.

The writer of a letter, from whence this account is extracted, says, "I shall mention one instance of his humanity, to which I was witness. When provincial of the Grand Lodge of Free-masons, at Prague, which society was composed of the principal nobility and gentry of the country, he heard of an infant having been left wrapped up at a convent-door, by the unfortunate mother, but that, owing to the intense cold, it had perished before daylight. Upon this, the prince formed the plan of a foundling-hospital; and, by his influence, it was carried into effect—so that, in a short time, he had the satisfaction of seeing one hundred deserted innocents happily rescued from a premature death."

Another instance of his liberality deserves to be related. One Mr. Corry, a native of Ireland, who served in Calemberg's regiment, happened to have a dispute with an Imperial count, whose lady was a great favourite with the Empress-Queen; and the consequence was a duel, in which the count was slightly wounded. The lady, however, enraged that any of her husband's noble blood should be spilled by a wild Irishman, made such a representation of the case at court, that the unfortunate Hibernian received orders in a few days, from the council of war, to depart immediately for Transylvania, and join the third battalion—to which no one was sent but the invalided and disgraced. The blood of the Milesian could ill endure this stain upon his honour. He would have preferred death itself, to such a sentence: but there was no alternative; he had no friend to interpose in his behalf; and he was closely guarded till he reached the

dreary region, where he was doomed to pass his days in misery. When Prince George became acquainted with the case, he set off from Prague to Vienna, obtained an order for the recall of the exile, and appointed him captain in his own regiment. This noble-minded prince died on the 6th of November, 1785.

On the breaking up of the military review in Bohemia, the royal brothers separated—Prince Frederick proceeding to Berlin, and Prince William returning into Italy, where he passed the winter. Early in the spring, his Royal Highness directed his course homewards, through France; and on the 12th of May, 1785, arrived at Hanover, where he was joined by Prince Edward, who had just landed at Stade, from the *Augusta yacht*. After passing some days together, another separation took place, by the embarkation of Prince William for England, where he landed on the 10th of June; and, at five in the afternoon, reached Buckingham House.

The same evening, the Prince of Wales had a splendid fête, at Carlton House. As soon as his Royal Highness was made acquainted with the arrival of his brother from Germany, he left Lord and Lady Southampton to receive the company, while he went to the Queen's Palace to welcome Prince William, and to invite him to the entertainment. But, in this object, he was doomed to experience a severe mortification. The King would not consent to part with the young Prince that night; and, after some high words, the Heir-Apparent went back, to make an apology for his own absence, and to express his concern for the disappointment.

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1785 to 1786.

THE novitiate of Prince William was far from terminating at this period. Having passed two years, for his improvement, on the continent; he was now to commence a new career of professional duty. On Friday, the 17th of June, a full board of Admiralty was held, for the examination of his Royal Highness as to his qualifications, preparatory to his receiving the commission of a lieutenant. So strict, indeed, was the King in this, as well as every occasion which affected the public service, that upon no account would he allow any distinction to be made between his son and other young candidates for promotion. In truth, however, there was not the slightest call for any such indulgence in the present instance; and Lord Howe, who presided in person at the board, told his Majesty afterwards, that he had great pleasure in saying, "the Prince was every inch a sailor." His commission, as third-lieutenant of the *Hebe* frigate, was then made out, signed, and delivered to the Prince with all formality; after which he returned to St. James's, where he changed his dress of a midshipman for that of his new rank. The same day, his Royal Highness went to the levee, where he was presented by the Lords Commissioners, and kissed the King's hand on his appointment.

On the following morning, the Prince of Wales gave a very grand public breakfast, in honour of his brother, at Carlton House, where the gardens were laid out in an elegant style, for the accommodation of a numerous assemblage of noblemen and gentlemen, many of whom were naval officers of superior rank, particularly such as had served with his Royal Highness. The same day, Prince William left town for Windsor; and on Monday morning he set off with Lord Howe for Portsmouth, where they were received by Admiral Montague, and the officers of the fleet and garrison. After dining at the Government-house, the Prince, Lord John Levison Gower, Captains Thornborough and Euston, embarked on board the *Hebe*, of forty-four guns, which had been taken from the French in the late war. The frigate immediately got under weigh, and, with the *Mutiné* cutter, stood to the eastward.

One object of this voyage was to circumnavigate the island, and initiate the young Prince in the principles of hydrography, and the practice of marine surveying, under the particular direction of Admiral Gower, who, however, on this service, only hoisted a broad pendant, as commodore. On passing the Foreland, and entering the North Sea, the *Hebe* was joined by the *Rose*, of twenty-eight guns, and the *Monkey* cutter; to which was afterwards added, in Yarmouth Roads, the *Spcedy* sloop of war, Captain Rogers, stationed there to intercept smugglers.

The Prince landed at Yarmouth, on the first of July, accompanied by the commodore, and also Captain Rogers, with whom he had been acquainted in America. At his landing, the Prince was received by a numerous assembly of the most respectable inhabitants, who paid

him great respect. After taking a view of the town, and driving to Caister and Gorleston, his Royal Highness returned on board the same evening.

On the 6th of July, the Hebe and the sloop arrived in Bridlington Bay; and, the next day, the Prince, with Captains Thornborough and Rogers, landed, amidst a vast concourse of the inhabitants, from all parts of the country.

The wind proving unfavourable, the ships lay here at anchor above a week—during which time his Royal Highness made several excursions on shore; one of which, however, had like to have proved of serious consequences. According to the account published at the time, the Prince, intending to take a trip to Hull with some of his messmates, was thrown from his horse, and received a contusion on the head, with some other bruises. Dr. Johnson, a physician of Beverley, being sent for, took the Royal Patient home to his own house, where he was bled, and slept that night; but the next morning, being Sunday, he was sufficiently recovered to set off in a chaise-and-four, to join the frigate.

Mr. Gilpin relates the story more circumstantially, in his Memoir of Captain Rogers; but evidently with a slight error as to the place where the accident occurred. He says, “Captain Rogers, on being appointed to that station, purchased a little cottage not far from Yarmouth, where the Prince was a frequent guest, while off that coast. Here, he one day persuaded Captain Rogers to make a little excursion with him into the country, to see a race. They had neither horses to carry them, nor servants to attend them; but hired, as the Prince proposed, two hackney horses at Yarmouth, and went alone. Before they got to the race-ground, the Prince’s

horse fell. The Prince was thrown off, and received a very violent shock. Captain Rogers saw no signs of life in him ; and believed he was dead. Greatly distressed, he took the Prince up in his arms, and carried him, by main strength, to the nearest cottage, where he laid him on such a bed as he could procure. He was blooded, as soon as any medical assistance could be had ; but it was some time before he came to himself. As he lay upon the bed, pale and languid, his flaxen hair discomposed and tumbled about his face, a report spread in the neighbourhood, that the Prince was a young lady going off with her lover to Scotland ; which entertained his Royal Highness very much, when he recovered. The old woman who inhabited the cottage, on finding her mistake, and knowing the quality of the guest she had received, shewed the bed on which the Prince had lain, to all the country round, at a penny a head ; and, while the novelty lasted, she turned it into a comfortable living.

This artful speculation of the Yorkshire dame, brings to recollection a contrivance to raise money somewhat similar, but far more ludicrous. In the summer of 1786, an attempt was made upon the life of his late Majesty, George the Third, by a mad-woman, named Margaret Nicholson. The weapon used by the maniac was an old dessert knife, with a green handle. This affair made a great noise, and numerous addresses were got up to congratulate the King on his wonderful escape. While the public attention was thus engaged, the landlord of a public-house, on the road between Marlborough and Devizes, hung out a board with this inscription :—" To be seen within, the fork that belonged to the identical knife wherewith Margaret Nicholson attempted to stab

his Majesty, King George the Third—admittance one penny.” Upon the landlord’s being desired to produce the treasure, he brought out an old deal case, in which was an old-fashioned fork, with a green handle. To heighten the humour, and increase credulity, the lid had the following inscription:—“This fork, and the knife belonging to it, were the dessert knife and fork of Mr. Burn, the famous Irish giant, to whom Mrs. Nicholson is cousin, three times removed.”

The landlord was a poor infirm old man, and, though not destitute of sense or drollery, yet was weak enough to credit the whole of the account he was instructed to relate; which, together with the fork, was given to him, he said, by a neighbouring gentleman, “that he might get a penny in an honest way.”

But, we must now return to Prince William and the squadron. As soon as the arrival of his Royal Highness on the northern coast was known, very lively expectations were raised at Edinburgh, and along that part of Scotland, of his immediate landing; but the good people were much disappointed in the hopes they had entertained.

On Thursday afternoon, July the 14th, the Brazen cutter arrived at Leith, express from Commodore Gower, ordering such of his Majesty’s ships as were there, to join him without loss of time. The cutter, in about an hour after, with the Race Horse, proceeded to sea; but on Friday evening early, she returned again to her former station, in company with the Kite cutter; having left the Hebe at anchor off Gullen Point, near North Berwick. The commodore, with the other vessels, remained there till Saturday noon, when the whole got under weigh, and went down the Firth with a press of sail, shaping their course to the northward. When the Hebe

appeared off Dunbar, she was saluted by the fort with twenty-one guns, which she returned. A gentleman, writing to his friend, from Edinburgh, at this time, concluded with saying, "The squadron are going to survey the coast all the way to the Orkneys; and to drive off any foreign vessels that are fishing within the limits of our coasts. This is the business and the instructions which the commodore has received from the Admiralty, and the latter are very particular on this head."

The present expedition, therefore, was neither one of mere pleasure, nor wholly for the improvement of the Prince in those branches of nautical science with which his experience on foreign stations had left him imperfectly acquainted. These objects were connected with others of far greater importance. In the late war, the coasts of Britain, on every side, from the Land's End, in Cornwall, to the north of Scotland, and down the Irish channel, had been exposed, in a defenceless state, to the depredation of freebooters; who not only carried away the trading vessels, but landed in various places, plundered noblemen's seats, and even laid several towns under contribution. After the peace, these marauders returned to their old practice of smuggling; which they carried on to an extent far surpassing what had ever been known before, to the detriment of the revenue, the injury of trade, and the corruption of morals.

Much of this illicit traffic was carried on, especially along the eastern coast of England, and the north of Scotland, by craft either actually employed in fishing, or adopting that pursuit as a cover for a more profitable concern.

Thus the nation suffered generally; and no class more

than the seamen, who having been thrown out of employ by the dismantling of the navy, and the loss of the American trade, were now deprived of the means of earning a livelihood, owing to the encroachments of the Dutch fishermen within the line of demarcation prescribed by treaty. This last, indeed, had been an old grievance, and had drawn forth many heavy complaints from Sir Walter Raleigh, and other patriots at the beginning of the seventeenth century. One of these writers, John Keymor, in his "Observations upon the Dutch Fishery," gives the following account of our neighbours' industry, contrasted with the deficiency of our own :—

"Two thousand busses, from sixty to one hundred and two hundred tons apiece, are employed only to take herrings about Buchanness in Scotland, all along the coasts of England to the Thames' mouth, from June to November, twenty-six weeks; and one of their great busses does take eight, twelve, or twenty lasts of herrings at a draught in the night, and carries into their country forty, fifty, or one hundred lasts in a buss. And our fishing continueth but seven weeks with small crayets and cobles, from five, ten, to twenty tons, when the herrings come home to our own roadstead, and we take one, two, or three lasts in a night; and when we bring home seven, it is a great wonder.

"Besides the number taken by their two thousand busses, the Hollanders have above four hundred other vessels, called gaynes and evers, which do take herrings to Yarmouth, and there sell them, and carry away ready money. They have yet five hundred other ships usually trading every year to London, with cod and ling taken in his Majesty's seas, as also other parts of England, and here sell them, and carry away most fine gold, which is

made into base gold, toys, and seals : a great hurt to the wealth and strength of our land, and hinderance to navigation and mariners, and employment to the poor of this nation.

“The Hollanders,” continues the same writer, “have made a law in their own country, that we shall sell no white herrings nor other fish there, upon penalty of confiscation, because they will have no other nation to serve their country with fish, but what they take themselves ; as well for the increase as maintainance of navigation, and setting their people on work. Hamburgh, likewise, hath made an order, that we shall sell no fish there, before their busses be come from fishing, and have sold all theirs. Thus they take herrings in his Majesty’s seas, make laws to cross and hinder us in our sales, for the enriching and strengthening themselves, and increasing their ships and mariners.”

The same evil prevailed at the period of which we are now writing ; and the Dutch even went so far as to fit out a squadron, consisting of three frigates and a sloop of war, to protect their fishing vessels, in case of any interruption being given to them ; but upon the appearance of Commodore Gower on the Dogger bank, they all thought proper to retire within their own boundary.

No man felt the importance of the coast fishery of Britain more than Lord Rodney ; and there is reason to believe, that the present expedition, and that of stationary frigates at proper distances, originated with this intelligent and brave admiral. The following anecdote shews the interest his Lordshp took in that valuable nursery of seamen, and inexhaustible source of national wealth.

Dining one day with the Prince of Wales, Lord Rodney took notice of a plate of cured herrings on the

table, of which his Royal Highness was very fond. "Your Royal Highness," said the veteran, "does infinite service to the British navy by encouraging our national fishery. Every person of rank, I hope, will follow the example; and if the number of fashionable tables be taken into consideration, the result may be in time an addition of twenty thousand hardy seamen to our fleets;—men brought up from childhood on the ocean, in a branch of service to which Holland is solely indebted for her maritime strength." The Prince replied: "My Lord, you do me more honour than I deserve: these herrings, I am sorry to say, were not cured by British hands. I understand your reasoning, which is perfectly just—it is that of Lord Rodney, upon his own element. Henceforward, I shall order a plate of British cured herrings to be purchased, and to appear as a standing dish at my table: this shall be called a Rodney. Under that designation, no true patriot will neglect to follow the example."

For a long time afterwards a cured herring went by the name of a Rodney; though how it obtained that appellation, few could tell.

But we must now follow the course of our Royal navigator to the "ultima Thule" of ancient geography.

Having cleared the Inch Cape Rock, in running along the coast from the Frith of Forth, the ships off Buchanness steered for Shetland; but after looking into Brassy, where in the year 1665 the brave Earl of Sandwich with his whole fleet anchored, they altered their cruise, and stood to the south-west for the Orkneys; and on Monday, the 15th of July, came to an anchor in Kirkwall road, where they remained four days; and then went on a cruise round the northernmost of these isles.

During their stay at Kirkwall, numbers of gentlemen and ladies went on board the *Hebe*, to pay their respects to the Prince. Some of these visiters were not only honoured with an introduction to his Royal Highness; but they were also admitted to dine with him and the commodore. Among those that were so favoured, was Mr. John Moodie, a native of Orkney, who had sailed with the Prince all the time he was in the *Prince George*, and afterwards in the *Barfleur*. Being only a warrant officer, he had of course no pay from government after the peace; in consequence of which his circumstances were very indifferent, even in so cheap a place as Kirkwall. The Prince soon made himself acquainted with the condition of his old shipmate, whose spirit he admired, and who had on many occasions rendered him service. Sensible of this, the Prince generously gave Mr. Moodie an order upon his banker for forty pounds to be paid yearly, till he should be again employed; which was not long after.

On Wednesday afternoon, his Royal Highness, in compliment to the city of Kirkwall, the capital of Pomona, and once a bishop's see, went on shore, attended by Captain Thornborough, and paraded the streets from one end to the other. On this occasion, nothing could be heard but the ringing of bells, and shouting of the people, as demonstrations of their joy at seeing among them the first member of the Royal family that had ever visited those remote parts of the British dominions. The incorporations of Kirkwall assembled, and drew up an address, which, with the freedom of their societies, was delivered to his Royal Highness on board the *Hebe*, by Messrs Walter and Cobban, two of the body, who met with a very gracious reception.

In this survey, the Prince paid particular attention to

the phenomenon of the tide, which in all the channels that divide the islands runs very strong ; but with different circumstances—for while the flood sets in one direction through one passage, it takes an opposite course in another, and that with the same degree of velocity. Another object which engaged the curiosity of his Royal Highness, was the manner of bird-catching in the smaller isles or holms of the Orcades. The height of some of the cliffs, which are almost perpendicular, exceeds fifty fathoms ; yet frightful as these gigantic forms are to the beholder who views them for the first time from the sea, the natives of the neighbouring islands make nothing of climbing them in search of game, and the eggs which the birds lay on the shelves of the precipices. To these the dauntless fowlers ascend with rapidity, pass from one projection to another intrepidly, collect the eggs and the birds, and then descend with the same ease and indifference. In most places the attempt is made from above, the fowler being lowered from the slope nearest the brink of the precipice, by a rope made of the bristles of hogs ; that of hemp being liable to be cut, like a ship's cable, by the sharpness of the rocks. One man above holds the rope, while his companion descends, and draws him up again by mere personal strength alone ; from which some idea may be formed of the strength, as well as agility, of these islanders.

In this demi-arctic cruise, the *Hebe* came-to off the Fair Isle, lying, or, as Dr. Johnson would have said, cast aside from human use, midway between Orkney and Shetland. Though full three miles long, this isle is scarcely half a mile broad, very craggy, with three rocks, of such a height, that they are clearly seen both from Orkney and Shetland, though the nearest of the former is ten leagues,

and the latter seventeen leagues, distant from them. This island has some arable land, which is very fruitful and well manured. Here, also, are many sheep, which, though small, are good and fat. This romantic spot had sufficient attractions to induce the Prince to pay it a visit, though the island has no harbour, and only one creek accessible to boats at the north-east end. Here his Royal Highness landed with some difficulty, and, wading through the surf, clambered over the rocks to the upper part of the island; but as he was unknown, the people, though extremely civil, paid him no remarkable attention. After traversing the isolated spot, and shooting some wild fowl, of which there was an abundance, he returned on board.

However small and insignificant this island may seem, it is not without a claim to historic record. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, when commander-in-chief of the famous Spanish armada, in the year 1588, was wrecked on the eastern coast of Fair Island. The ship went to pieces, but the duke, and about two hundred more, escaped. They lived here till both themselves and the inhabitants were very nearly famished. At length, the duke and the poor remains of his people were carried over to the main land of Shetland, by Andrew Humphry. The duke continued there some time, and then embarked on board the same small vessel, which conveyed him safely to Dunkirk, where Humphry was dismissed with a munificent reward for his service.

Prince William was much pleased with the honest simplicity and hospitable character of the people throughout all the islands in these seas. He, however, could scarcely credit what he was told of their propensity to look out for wrecks, that they might profit by the plunder. Yet,

upon inquiry, it was found, that the practice, instead of being confined to the lower classes, prevailed equally among those of a higher order. Both in Orkney and Shetland, wrecks are, by the vulgar, considered as "God-sends." And, in some cases, even the lairds themselves have not kept clean hands. "These are my rocks," said one of these proprietors of the land, to an officer in his Majesty's naval service, who interposed to protect the cargo of a stranded vessel—"these are my rocks," repeated he, as if that circumstance gave him an unquestionable right to appropriate the cargo to himself.

When such was the morality of the landlord, what could be expected of the poor tenantry? The seamen of the King's ship were obliged to beat off the wreckers with sticks—"Just as we beat off malducks, or fulmars, from tearing the blubber, while flenching whales in Greenland," said a sailor, in his peculiar phrase, who had been formerly in that trade.

An erroneous opinion prevails in these islands, and perhaps elsewhere, that, in the event of a shipwreck, if the owners do not appear to claim, within a year, such part of the cargo that is saved may be lawfully divided into three shares: one to the high admiral of those seas; another to the owner of the ground; or, as we should say, the lord of the manor; and a third to the cottar-families, who are supposed to have assisted in saving the property—but who, in general, do all they can to secure the whole for themselves.

On the 29th of July, the *Hebe* and *Mutiné* arrived at Stornaway, in the Isle of Lewis, one of the Hebrides, where they came to an anchor. Mr. Mackenzie, of Seaforth, factor, and some others of the principal inhabitants, had the honour of paying their respects to the Prince

on board. Afterwards, his Royal Highness and Commodore Gower went on shore, and expressed much satisfaction at the neatness of the village; the capaciousness and security of the harbour; and the stir occasioned by the number of vessels hourly arriving, this being the central ground in waiting for the herring-fishing, about which the Prince and the Commodore were particularly inquisitive. As they remained here nearly a week, they had ample opportunity for the gratification of their curiosity, and making their observations upon this wonderful proof of providential care for the wants of man :—

“ — Where the northern ocean in vast whirls
Boils round the naked melancholy isles
Of farthest Thule :—
Who can recount what transmigrations there
Are annual made ? what nations come and go ?
And how the living clouds on clouds arise ?
Infinite wings ! till all the plume dark air,
And rude resounding shore, are one wild cry.”

Well might such an object engage the consideration of a British prince, especially one so brought up to active pursuits, in the service of his country, as his Royal Highness had now been for seven years. Something has already been said on the subject, but it may not be amiss to add here what an able writer has stated upon this branch of political economy.

The Dutch, it is well known, accounted this fishery their “ golden mine ;” and it seems generally agreed, by those best informed on the subject, that it yielded them, for a long course of years, three millions sterling annually. Dr. Campbell, in his “ Political Survey of Great Britain,” after premising that the value of the

Dutch fishery has often been exaggerated, and that he will, therefore, give a moderate computation, proceeds thus:—"It would, however, be no difficult thing to prove, that, while it continued to flourish in their hands, they drew from the ocean washing the northern shores of Britain, to the amount of two hundred millions."

The island of Lewis afforded a variety of amusements to the Prince, during his short stay there—chiefly angling, in which he was very successful; and, for this sport, no situation could be better furnished. Besides the rivers, which abound with salmon, trout, and other excellent fish, there are many fresh-water lakes, all plentifully stocked with fish of different kinds. These lakes are also covered with an incredible diversity of wild fowl; amongst which, the most remarkable is the famous *anas farenensis*, or eider-goose; but here it is called, the colck; the down of which is supposed to be the finest in the world. On observing the vast variety of game which abound here, the Prince much regretted that the shooting-season had not commenced.

James the First had a design to establish a royal borough in Lewis, for the promotion of the fishery and commerce; but left the execution of the scheme to his son, who was prevented from carrying it into effect by the troubles which deprived him of his crown and life. There were several Dutch settlers here at that time, who, by their industry and superior knowledge, greatly improved the natives, particularly in the art of ship-building, and the method of curing herrings. After the restoration, however, these foreigners were removed, from political motives; but the benefits they rendered the place are still felt and acknowledged.

The Hebe, and her attendant cutter, having lain at Stornaway from Sunday to Friday, the Prince and some of the officers, after dining with the factor, went on board, and sailed the same evening.

On Thursday, the 3rd of August, they came to off Campbelton, in the Mull of Cantire, with the intention of putting the Prince on shore there; but the wind blowing fresh at east, the Commodore was afraid it would prevent his getting out of the harbour so expeditiously as he could wish. The boat, therefore, that had been sent to the town was recalled, and, greatly to the mortification of the inhabitants, both vessels stood off again to sea, for the coast of Ireland. The next morning they were off Carrickfergus, and came so far into the bay, that the whole population of Belfast left their habitations and employments, to hail the first Prince of the Brunswick line that ever touched the Emerald Isle. Here, however, another severe disappointment was experienced.

The Perseus frigate, and Langrishe cutter, then stationed at Carrickfergus, fired ordinary salutes; which were returned in the usual way: but no indications appeared of a disembarkation, to gratify the assembled multitude, and the local authorities, who were making great preparations to manifest their loyalty.

It was understood, that one reason for the Prince's declining the honours due to his birth, was a previous order from the King, that he should be considered only as a lieutenant, while on actual service. One of the officers, who went on shore at Campbelton, said, that the Prince did duty, night and day, as regularly as any of the other lieutenants. There was great propriety in this conduct; for in no case can a person be qualified to command, who has not himself learned how to obey,

and to practise those duties which he may be called upon to require from others.

On leaving the bay of Carrickfergus, the Hebe and her consort proceeded down the Irish channel, with the wind blowing fresh to the eastward; so that they made a quick passage to Milford, where they came to an anchor on Sunday, the 5th of August. The royal visiter's arrival being presently spread throughout the country, the people collected on every side of the haven, to welcome the Prince to that part of the Cambrian shore, where none of his rank had landed since Henry of Richmond, who came to wrest the crown of England from the brow of Richard the Third.

His Royal Highness Prince William disembarked on Tuesday, and, amid the acclamations of the assembled population, passed through the town of Haverfordwest to Picton Castle, the seat of Lord Milford. After dining with his lordship, the Prince returned to Haverfordwest, where he joined in the dance at the assembly-room, which was filled by all the fashionables of that gay town and neighbourhood; and with whom he ingratiated himself exceedingly, by his polite and cheerful manners.

As the Hebe remained here above a fortnight, on account of the survey which the Admiralty had ordered to be made of the state of that valuable harbour, and of the improvement it was capable of as a naval arsenal, the Prince availed himself of the leisure thus afforded, to extend his observations through the two counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen. In these excursions he visited the seats of the principal nobility and gentry, but his longest residence was at Picton Castle, with the beauty of which noble mansion, and the objects around, he was particularly delighted. The views from every

window of the castle, and, from every part of the grounds, are fine beyond description. Different scenes of one of the most beautiful rivers in the kingdom present themselves continually: vessels for ever passing and repassing, one while appearing through the openings of romantic and picturesque rocks, at another sweeping along in full sail, and at others hiding themselves as it were in the coves and bays that diversify every part of the river. The largest wood in this part of Wales, and abounding with the finest oaks, here extends down to the very edge of the water. There are also many noble trees in the park, which is very extensive, and abounds in deer. About five miles distant, on the opposite side of the river, is seen the town of Haverfordwest, with its white houses glistening in the sun. An ancient castle in ruins, the Trefgarine rocks, resembling a Gothic cathedral, and a bold mountainous ridge, terminate the view.

Between this charming spot and the harbour, most of the time of the Prince was divided, during the survey which the commodore, and the engineers under him, were making in the different branches of the haven. Milford is universally allowed to be the best harbour in Great Britain; and certainly it is as secure and spacious as any in Europe. It has sixteen deep and safe creeks, five bays, and thirteen roads, all distinguished by several names, and in which above a thousand sail of ships may ride in perfect security, at a sufficient distance from each other. There is no danger in sailing in or out with the tide, either by day or by night, let the wind blow in what direction it may; and if a ship in distress comes in, without either anchor or cable, she may run ashore on a bed of mud, and there lie in safety till refitted.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, before the Spanish

attempt to invade England, two forts were begun at the entrance of Milford Haven, one on each side, called Nangle and Dale Block-Houses, but they were never finished; and from that time to the present survey, this important place seems to have been wholly neglected. In 1757, the merchants of London presented a petition to the House of Commons, setting forth, that the port of Milford was a safe and commodious harbour, capable of receiving at all times the whole Royal navy, and trade of Great Britain; and was most conveniently situated for the resort and security of merchant ships, when they cannot easily enter the English channel, and for the sending out and relieving of cruisers in case of damage; that ships might proceed from the said harbour into the ocean, and return from thence, with almost any wind, by taking advantage of the strong currents, and in a great deal less time than was usually employed in sailing with the most favourable wind from Portsmouth to the Land's End; that the said harbour might, in a very short time, at a moderate expense, be rendered defensible and secure against any attack; that a dock-yard might be established there, and any number of ships, and of any rate, rebuilt, careened, repaired, and fitted for sea with the greatest convenience and expedition; and that plenty of proper materials for the construction of ships abound in the adjacent countries; and, therefore, praying the House to take the matter into consideration, and to make such provision relative thereto, as its nature and importance might appear to require.

This petition was referred to a Committee, whose report being favourable, a grant of ten thousand pounds was voted towards fortifying and securing Milford Haven. Notwithstanding this, Milford remained in the same

neglected state all through the American war ; nor does it appear that any proposition was once made upon the subject in either house of parliament, though the necessity of improving our national resources, and of strengthening our coasts, was universally admitted.

Dr. Campbell, in his valuable work already quoted, endeavoured to call the attention of government and the public to the importance of this noble haven, as a sea-port for commercial purposes. "National advantages, however great in themselves," says this intelligent writer, "are but too liable, in all countries, to be overlooked ; and, therefore, it is incumbent upon the government, when apprised of them, to consider, and call them forth for the common advantage. Leghorn was a very despicable place, and, besides, unwholesome from its situation, till the advantage of its haven being discerned by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the state of commerce in Italy duly weighed, gave him the prospect of the benefits it might produce. This idea being prosecuted with equal prudence and spirit, soon changed the face of things, not barely in respect to that port, but in regard to a large extent of country round, and, in process of time, to the whole territory of that prince."

Dr. Campbell, having happily adduced Leghorn as an instance of what might be done for local improvement, even under the greatest obstacles, shewed at length, that Milford presented in itself, and on every side, all the advantages requisite to make it the first port in the kingdom. But even this representation failed to rouse a proper spirit in the public ; nor did government pay any regard to the use that might be made of this outpost, till the peace of 1783 obliged ministers to review the errors of their predecessors. Then the present survey was

undertaken by order of the Admiralty Board, at the suggestion of the King himself, who was also desirous that his son should be employed in the important concern. Commodore Gower's report, however, though strongly in favour of Milford as a naval station, was thrown aside; and, if ever any idea was entertained of acting upon it, nothing took place to render the design effective, till after the commencement of the French revolutionary war, and then upon a scale inferior to its importance.

On Friday, the 26th of August, the Hebe and the cutter came to an anchor in Falmouth harbour, where Prince William landed the same day. His Royal Highness was received on shore by Lord Falmouth, the brother-in-law of the commodore, and all three immediately set off for Tregothnan House, the seat of his lordship.

On Monday, the Prince, Lord Falmouth, and the Commodore, rode on horseback to Truro. Here, after honouring the corporation with a visit, his Royal Highness, accompanied by Mr. Daniel, the banker of the town, and principal proprietor of the tin-works, went to see the different operations of the smelting-house. There the Prince partook of beef-steaks, broiled on one of the heated blocks of tin; which mode of cooking is, by the universal testimony of gastronomists, admitted to be the most exquisite process for enjoying a rump-steak to perfection. Having indulged in this superexcellent luxury, the Prince returned to Tregothnan House; but, in the evening, he honoured the assembly at Truro with his presence, and highly delighted the Cornish beauties by his gallantry and affability.

During his stay at this extremity of the island, the Prince made several excursions and visits to the seats of

the principal gentry. He also ventured down some of the copper and tin mines, concerning which he was very inquisitive ; and was observed to minute the answers to his inquiries, on paper.

Being informed that a considerable revenue accrued to the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, from the tin-mines, each block produced at the smelting-houses paying twelve shillings, his Royal Highness archly replied, " I am exceedingly glad to hear it ; for I have no doubt that this tin cash must prove very acceptable to my brother George."

Being shewn, at Tregothnan House, a portrait of the brave Admiral Boscawen, the Prince expressed so great an admiration of his character, and such a curiosity to learn some particulars of him, that Lord Falmouth felt a peculiar gratification in dwelling upon the personal as well as professional history of his gallant relative.

When captain of the Dreadnought, he was sent to cruise for a French fleet of merchantmen from St. Domingo ; and, while waiting in the track directed as most likely to fall in with the expected object, a seaman came to tell him, that the fleet was in sight. Captain Boscawen took his glass, and was soon convinced that, instead of the convoy, it was the French grand fleet. All the officers, as well as the crew, however, were not to be persuaded ; for their heads were set upon prizes. " Well, gentlemen," said the captain, laying down the glass, " you shall not say that I have stood in the way of your getting riches, I therefore submit ; but, remember, when you find your mistake, it is sink or swim—you must stand by me or perish." As he said, so it proved ; but, by superior seamanship, he avoided an action, and escaped.

No man ever had the honour of the service more at heart than Admiral Boscawen. When Lord Anson, then at the head of the board, refused to confirm the admiral's promotion of two officers, Laforey and Balfour, to the rank of post-captains, in consequence of their having distinguished themselves at the taking of Louisbourg; Boscawen threatened to give up his commission, which had the proper effect.

This great commander could not endure party spirit: finding some of his friends out of place when he returned from abroad, and being asked whether he would continue at the board of Admiralty under the new Administration, he nobly answered, "The country has a right to the services of its professional men; and, should I be sent again upon an expedition, my situation at the board will facilitate the equipment of the fleet I am appointed to command."

No stronger testimony to the merit of a commander could be given, than that of the great William Pitt, when prime minister, to Admiral Boscawen:—"When I apply," said he, "to other officers, respecting any expedition I may chance to project, they always raise difficulties: you, on the contrary, are ready with expedients."

The last time the Admiral visited Cornwall was marked by a singular circumstance.

On the night of the 17th of September, 1760, a large Algerine xebeque struck on the rocks, near Penzance: she carried eighteen guns, and had two hundred and twenty men; of whom, about forty were drowned: the country was soon alarmed; and the first report was, that the French had landed; but the next was, that an Algerine had come on shore with the plague on board. Nothing

could equal the bustle and panic which this occasioned. Some ventured towards the beach, but soon returned, affirming that they had smelt the stench of the plague; and in consequence drank copiously of brandy, by way of antidote. The Algerines were dismayed full as much as the natives. They had imagined our shore was the coast of Spain, and expected, of course, nothing less than chains and slavery for life. But when convinced that they were on British ground, they danced for joy, exclaiming, "Ingelterra! Ingelterra! bona Ingelterra."

The Savage sloop of war being then on the station, the captain sent some of his people to act as sentinels, till the arrival of the military from the next town. Every attention was shewn to the sufferers, who remained here above a month, and were put on board a vessel, to be conveyed home to Algiers. While the transport lay at Falmouth, waiting for convoy, Admiral Boscawen came down to Tregothnan, to visit his brother. The master waited on the admiral, to pay his respects; and when the latter expressed his hope that every thing had been done to render the Algerines comfortable, particularly in regard to provisions, the captain said, they had plenty of excellent pork, though very little beef. "Pork, pork!" exclaimed the admiral, "d—— you, the navy-board, and the victualling-office, altogether. Don't the blockheads know that the religion of the Turks and Moors forbids them to eat pork!"

Upon this, orders were given to procure for the ship a proper supply of beef from Plymouth.

The admiral died the year following, and was interred in the church of St. Michael Penkevil; where his widow erected a monument to his memory, with an epitaph written by herself. Mrs. Boscawen was a woman equally

distinguished by genius and spirit. She survived the admiral forty years, and had the honour of being ranked among the particular friends of George the Third and Queen Charlotte.

When the metropolis blazed with illuminations on the acquittal of Admiral Keppel, in 1779, the mob, in perambulating the streets, laid siege to Mrs. Boscawen's house in St. James's Square, bawling, "Put up your lights ! The little old lady opened the window, and said, "Get about your business : my husband beat the French ; and I shall not put up any lights for a man who ran away from them."

This address had such an effect upon the populace, that, instead of smashing the windows, they gave three cheers, and departed.

On the tenth of September, the Hebe came to an anchor at Spithead, when Captain Euston gave up the command to Prince William ; who then sailed on a cruise in the channel, but still under the instruction of Commodore Gower, assisted by Captain Thornborough.

On the fourth of October, the frigate was at Portsmouth, where the Prince took part in a grand naval ceremony ; which, in a letter from thence, is thus described :—"Yesterday, agreeably to the orders of the Admiralty Board, his Majesty's ship, the St. George, of ninety guns, was launched at this port. His Royal Highness Prince William-Henry, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and many of the nobility, were present upon the occasion. By nine in the morning, the yard was crowded with spectators from the different parts of the country ; and at half after eleven she was put into the water, amidst the acclamations of the multitude ; the ceremony of naming her being first performed

by the young Prince. After the launch was over, his Royal Highness, the nobility, and the officers of different ranks of the navy and marines, attended a public breakfast, given by the commissioners. The Prince afterwards dined on board the Queen, with Admiral Montague, and was saluted with twenty-one guns."

It would not be easy to select any object calculated to raise nobler ideas in the mind of the beholder, than that of a first rate man-of-war entering, from the stocks, into the bosom of the ocean. An elegant writer says, "Those who have ever witnessed the spectacle of the launching of a ship of the line, will, perhaps, forgive me for adding this to the examples of the sublime objects of artificial life. Of that spectacle, I can never forget the impression. When the vast bulwark sprung from her cradle, the calm water, on which she swung majestically round, gave the imagination a contrast of the stormy element in which she was soon to ride. All the days of battle, and nights of danger, she had to encounter; all the ends of the earth which she had to visit; and all that she had to do and suffer for her country, rose in awful presentiment before the mind; and when the heart gave her a benediction, it was like one pronounced on a living being."

The sentiments of the ancients were not less elevated; and it is evident, that the ceremonies now practised at the launching of a ship, are derived from the customs of the Greeks upon the like occasion; with this difference, that they blended religious rites with those of a festive nature. Before the vessel entered her destined element, a priest performed various lustrations, by way of consecrating her to the deity whose name he gave her, and whose image she bore on her prow. The Spaniards and

Portuguese, to this day, never launch any ship without a priestly benediction, and a profuse sprinkling of holy water at the giving of the name, which is usually that of a tutelary saint. However ridiculous this practice may be, our own naval nomenclature is little better, in exhibiting a complete index to the pantheon; by which sailors, who are far from being read in poetical and mythological history, make, without design, as strange transformations of the names of classic antiquity, as Swift did in jest. Now, a name conveys, or ought to convey, some idea worthy of it; but what just conception can any man, much less an uneducated mariner, have of a Bellerophon, commonly pronounced, "Billy Ruffian;" an Arachne; a Gorgon; or an Hamadryad; with a number of other puzzling appellatives, hard to understand, and still harder to utter?

But the navy-list, besides these fabulous names, abounds with many so undignified and inappropriate, that it would almost seem as if they had been selected on purpose to throw ridicule upon the service. How else can we account for such elegant discriminatives as the Bull-dog, and the Mastiff; the Sparrow-hawk, and the Squirrel; the Juniper, and the Bramble; the Swaggerer, and the Swinger; the Surly, and the Growler; the Plumper, and the Pincher—all of which, and a hundred more of the same sort, grace the nautical catalogue of Great Britain; with his Majesty's good ship the Belzebub, to bring up the rear.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1786 to 1788.

PRINCE William-Henry, after serving some time in the Hebe frigate, as second-lieutenant, was removed to the Pegasus, of twenty-eight guns ; and, on the 10th of April, 1786, received his commission as post-captain of that ship, then lying at Plymouth.

On his Royal Highness's appointment to this command, the captains, then in harbour, expressed their wish, by the port-admiral, to be introduced to him in form. Prince William accordingly appointed the following day, when he held his levee at the Commissioner's house. The captains were all introduced ; but he expressed great surprise, that his late brother officers, the lieutenants, had not waited on him also, and expressed a wish that they should the next day attend his levee. The lieutenants, in consequence, waited on the Prince, who immediately, with a good taste only to be equalled by its good feeling, invited himself to dine with them ; named a day previous to the one for which he stood engaged to the captains ; and added, with a frank kindness, " Then, my boys, we will have a jolly day of it together."

During his stay at Plymouth, his Royal Highness became a member of the society of Free-masons ; being initiated in due form in the Lodge, number eighty-six, then held at the Prince George Inn, in that town.

About the same time, he was pleased to accept the freedom of the borough of Plymouth, which was presented to him in an elegant gold box, by the four senior aldermen, and as many common-councilmen, of that ancient and respectable corporation.

As the Pegasus was now under orders to prepare for a distant station, her commander, who had spent most of the winter at Plymouth, repaired to London to receive his instructions from the Admiralty-board, and to take leave of his family. His stay in town, however, was but short; and yet it must have been at this period that the following circumstance happened, if in truth it ever happened at all. But since the story has appeared in certain ephemeral memoirs of the Royal Family, and may probably have had some foundation in truth, the insertion of it in this publication is necessary.

At a masquerade, in which the Prince of Wales appeared in the character of a Spanish grandee, accompanied by four of his squires, he is said to have paid particular attention to a nun, who was under the protection of a sailor. The assiduities of the Don were evidently unwelcome to the fair Ursuline, and the gallant tar threatened instantaneous chastisement, if any further provocation were given: the grandee, however, was not to be daunted; and he was very ably supported by his attendants, who, boasting of the high and noble descent of their master, declared it to be an act of the greatest condescension in him to hold any parley with a common English sailor. High words arose, and some taunting expressions were used, tending to imply that the fair devotee possessed no real pretensions to the character she had assumed. At length, allusion being made to the nymphs of Portsmouth Point, the choler of the sailor

could no longer brook the indignity, and a general battle ensued. The constables were called in, and the whole party of disputants were marched off to the watch-house; the Spanish grandee leading the way, in all his gorgeous finery. On arriving in the presence of the constable of the night, the culprits were called upon to declare their real characters. The grandee unmasked, and so did the sailor. "Aye, William, is it you?" exclaimed the one; and "Aye, George, is it you?" responded the other. The constable was astonished at having two princes of the blood-royal before him;—the combatants laughed heartily at the adventure," gave something to the guardians of the night, and retired.

At the time when this laughable incident is said to have taken place, masquerades were much more in fashion than they are at present; and it is certain that the amusement was a favourite one with his late Majesty, when Prince of Wales; though no person disliked it more than the King his father, who thought it both frivolous and immoral. But the example of the Heir-apparent was then more influential in the gay world than that of the Monarch. The Prince had his masquerades; and, therefore, many persons of distinction, regardless of the opinions of the Sovereign, had their's also.

One of the most remarkable of these entertainments was given by the late Lord Berwick, at his house in Grosvenor Square. The company were selected by tickets, to the number of five hundred, and the rooms were completely filled by the votaries of fashion. At about half-past eleven, the Prince and his party arrived from Carlton House. They were thirteen in number, habited as the superior and brothers of a convent of

Grey Friars. The superior sung an extremely witty song, in character, with a chorus by the whole fraternity in a circle: which, at the request of the company, was repeated. After this, the brotherhood unmasked, and were discovered to consist of the following group:— Captain Morris, the author of the song, as superior; the Prince of Wales; Honourable Hugh Conway, afterwards Lord Hugh Seymour; his brother, George Conway; the Honourable Mr. Dillon; the Honourable Mr. Finch; Captain John Willet Payne; Lord Strathaven; the Honourable Mr. St. John; Mr. O'Byrne; Mr. Braddyll; Colonel Gardiner; and Captain Boyle.

Two of these gentlemen, Captain Hugh Conway and Captain Payne, took a house in conjunction, in Conduit Street, Hanover Square, for the sole purpose of entertaining their friends with scenes of merriment. This establishment was indeed the court of Comus, as long as it lasted, where the proprietors of the concern made pleasure their business, and amusement their study. Such extravagance was necessarily of limited duration. Captain Conway married; and his associate, honest Jack Payne, as he was called, the soul of whim, went abroad, to recruit his health and his finances.

While in Italy, Captain Payne became known to Cardinal York, the last of the royal line of Stuart, and was invited to dine with him. The Cardinal, to do honour to his guest, ordered a plum-pudding to be made; but the cook, though well skilled in the art which he professed, failed in producing a viand, of which he might have heard, but had never seen or tasted. Something, however, like a pudding was placed on the table; and the captain, out of politeness, could not refuse to partake of it. His eminence had no higher opinion of the pseudo-

English dish, than the visiter for whom it had been provided. "Captain Payne," said the venerable prelate, "we have done our best to offer you an English plum-pudding; but I fear, after all, that it is no better than a PRETENDER."

This anecdote afforded great amusement to the Prince of Wales, who often related it as an instance of the facetious humour of the last representative of an unfortunate house.

Captain Payne is said to have first become acquainted with the Prince at one of the club-houses, in a singular way. In consequence of some difference of opinion on a nautical subject, among the Prince's companions, it was agreed to refer the matter in dispute to Captain Payne, then sitting with another party. A note was accordingly written, and sent to the umpire, beginning thus:—"As you were *bread* to the seas—" the captain answered the elegant billet, by writing,—“Though I was never *bread* to the sea, the sea has been *bread* to me; and d—d *bad bread* it has proved.”

From this time, the naval wit and hero became almost a fixture at Carlton House, except when called again into professional service; in which he rose to the rank of rear-admiral of the red squadron. He was also treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, lord warden of the stannaries, and comptroller and auditor-general to the Prince of Wales. He died in December, 1803, much lamented by his royal patron, and lies buried in the church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

From this digression, we must now proceed to Plymouth, when Prince William, on his arrival, sailed in the Pegasus, accompanied by the Druid, Captain Elliston, and the Rose, Captain Henry Harvey, for Guernsey. Captain Joseph Elliston was an acquaintance of some

standing with his Royal Highness, having been on board the *Augusta* yacht, which conveyed him to and from Stade. In the late war, when first-lieutenant of *La Prudente* frigate, Captain Waldegrave, (afterwards Lord Radstock,) he lost his arm, in an action with a French ship of superior force. Captain Elliston commanded the *Druid* so many years, that the name of the one appeared to be perfectly associated with that of the other. After cruising in the channel a long time, the *Druid* went on the Jamaica station, where she continued some years. Captain Elliston, on his return home in 1792, put into Weymouth to pay his respects to the Royal Family, who were then spending the summer at that watering-place. The King, who was walking on the esplanade when Captain Elliston landed, knew him in a moment, and called out to Lady Caroline Waldegrave to look out of the window, and she would see an old acquaintance that had sailed with her brother, and lost his arm while on board the same ship. His Majesty, among other questions, asked Captain Elliston how long he had commanded the *Druid*; and on being told, upwards of seven years, he said, "Do you never mean to give her up?" "No please your Majesty," rejoined the Captain, "if you will have the goodness to make me a present of her. This answer highly tickled the King, and he called out to the Queen, who was walking at a little distance, "Charlotte, Charlotte, here this Elliston is asking me to give him the *Druid*."

In the month of June, 1786, Prince William-Henry, having received his orders while off the coast of Normandy, parted company with the captains of the *Druid* and *Rose*, and steered immediately for Newfoundland, and from thence to Halifax, in Nova Scotia.

Here two instances of the Royal benevolence demand our attention. When the Prince was on the eve of sailing from Plymouth, he was accosted in the dock-yard by a poor boy, who, without knowing him, requested his Royal Highness would give him a birth in his ship, to keep him from starving. The Prince put some questions to him, and, being pleased with his answers, as well as his manner, told him to go on board the Pegasus, and tell the commanding officer that the captain had sent him. His Royal Highness afterwards ordered him to be completely clothed, and equipped as a midshipman.

When the Prince arrived at Newfoundland, he accidentally saw a poor woman, who was burthened with a family of fourteen children, without the means of supporting them. Struck with the affecting sight, his Royal Highness, after surveying the whole, made choice of one boy, whose appearance pleased him, and this lad was treated in like manner with the other. During the several voyages made by the Prince, these fortunate youths always stood behind his chair when he dined, but were never made to do any servile work, either on board or on shore. They were placed under the immediate care of the steward, with whom they also messed. When his Royal Highness returned to Plymouth, to complete his beneficence, he sent them both to school, and directed the steward's wife to see that they wanted for nothing in his absence.

On the arrival of the Pegasus at Halifax, the Prince was received by the inhabitants with enthusiastic delight. As there was nothing he disliked more than the restraints of etiquette, he desired that military honours, and other formal ceremonies, should be omitted, whenever

he appeared on shore. The people, however, could not be hindered from manifesting their loyal sentiments in various demonstrations of respect; and to this very day the urbanity and kindness of His Royal Highness are remembered there with grateful affection. His stay at Halifax was but short. He arrived there on the 8th of October; and, in the middle of November following, the *Pegasus* anchored in English Harbour, Antigua, where the Prince had the pleasing satisfaction of meeting with Captain Horatio Nelson, then the senior officer on the Leeward Island station. The friendship that had before subsisted between these illustrious seamen, and which had been kept up by occasional correspondence, was now renewed; and they formed that permanent regard for each other, which became so highly honourable and beneficial to both. From this time, till their separation, they dined alternately with each other, and the Prince acknowledged many years afterwards, that—

“It was at this era he first formed his character as a naval officer, and was employed in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. It was then,” added his Royal Highness, “that I particularly observed the greatness of Nelson’s superior mind. The manner in which he enforced the spirit of the navigation act, first drew my attention to the commercial interests of my country. We visited the different islands together; and, as much as the manœuvres of fleets can be described off the headlands of islands, we fought over again the principal naval actions in the American war. Excepting the naval tuition which I had received on board the *Prince George*, when the present Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Keats was lieutenant of her, and for whom both

of us equally entertained a sincere regard, my mind took its first decided naval turn from this familiar intercourse with Nelson."

The Prince entered most zealously into the various reforms which Nelson was now carrying on in the dock-yard at Antigua, and in correcting the abuses among the contractors and prize-agents. Nelson's opinion of his naval coadjutor appears in a letter written to his friend Captain Locker, December 29th this year.

"You must have heard, long before this reaches you," says he, "that Prince William is under my command. I shall endeavour to take care that he is not a loser by that circumstance. He has his foibles, as well as private men; but they are far overbalanced by his virtues. In his professional line he is superior to nearly two-thirds, I am sure, of the list; and in attention to orders, and respect to his superior officer, I hardly know his equal. This is what I have found him."

In another letter, written to the same gentleman, from Montserrat, on the 14th of February, 1787, Nelson says—

"I am here with the Pegasus and Solebay. The island has made fine addresses, and good dinners. To-morrow we sail for Nevis and St. Christopher's. His Royal Highness keeps up strict discipline in his ship, and, without paying him any compliment, she is one of the finest-ordered frigates I have seen. He has had more plague with his officers than enough. His first lieutenant will, I have no doubt, be broke. I have sent him under arrest, he having written for a court-martial on himself, to vindicate his conduct, because his captain thought proper to reprimand him in the order-book. In short our service has been so relaxed during the war,

that it will cost many a court-martial to bring it up again."

So far, however, from being broke, the officer here alluded to, was not even tried; and he not long afterwards became a post-captain.

Nelson was at this time on the eve of marriage; and, in a letter to the lady, he says:—"What is it to attend on princes? Let me attend on you, and I am satisfied. Some are born for attendants on great men; I rather think that is not my particular province. His Royal Highness often tells me, he believes I am married, for he never saw a lover so easy, or say so little of the object he has a regard for. When I tell him I certainly am not, he says, 'Then he is sure I must have a great esteem for you, and that it is not what is vulgarly called love.'"

The marriage of Captain Nelson and Mrs. Frances Nisbet, the widow of a physician at Nevis, took place in that island, March 11th, 1787. The bride was given away by his Royal Highness, who, with many others, congratulated their friend in having borne off the principal favourite of the island.

Nelson, writing to Captain Locker, ten days afterwards, off Tortola, says—"My time since November has been entirely taken up in attending the Prince on his tour round these islands. However, except Granada, this is the last; when I shall repair to English Harbour, and fit the Boreas for a voyage to England. Happy shall I be when that time arrives. No man has had more illness or trouble on a station than I have experienced; but let me lay a balance on the other side—I am married to an amiable woman; that far makes amends for every thing. Indeed, until I married her, I never knew happiness, and

I am morally certain she will continue to make me a happy man for the rest of my days. Prince William did me the honour to stand her father upon the occasion ; and has shewn every act of kindness that the most sincere friendship could bestow. His Royal Highness leaves this country in June, by which time I hope my orders will arrive, or that somebody will be appointed to the command."

In this tour of the Antilles, the Prince received, at every place where he landed, testimonies of sincere respect and admiration. The House of Assembly, at Barbadoes—the most English of all the islands, which he now visited—passed a resolution to present an address to his Royal Highness, accompanied with a gold-hilted sword of the value of three hundred guineas. That of Dominica presented to the Prince a chronometer of the same value.

The French were not less attentive to the illustrious navigator, who received invitations from the Vicomte de Damas, governor of Martinico, and the Baron de Clugny, governor of Guadaloupe, to favour those islands with a visit

As Antigua was the principal station of the ships of war, the people there had, of course, more opportunities of becoming acquainted with the commander of the Pegasus than the inhabitants of the other islands. In a letter, written from thence in February 1787, an eminent merchant and planter says to his friend in England—

" Prince William-Henry has been here for some time past, repairing his ship ; where all ranks are vying with each other in making grand entertainments for their illustrious visitor. The Prince is quite the officer, never wearing any other dress than his uniform, and his star

and garter only when receiving addresses, or on any other public occasion. He has not slept a night out of his ship since his arrival in these seas, until coming into English Harbour, when the ship's heaving down obliged him to be on shore. His Royal Highness shews the most amiable disposition and condescension on every occasion, sees into the detail of the business of his ship, and delivers his own orders with the most minute attention to the duty and discipline of the frigate. In short, he promises to be what we all hope and wish, the restorer of the ancient glory of the British navy."

During his short stay on this station, the Prince formed an intimacy with that valuable officer and admiral, then Captain John Holloway, commanding the Solebay frigate. Though junior in rank, he was some years older than Nelson, and remarkable for the blunt sincerity of his language. The plainness and rigid honesty of Holloway soon attracted the respect of the Prince; who shewed the innate excellence of his own heart, in receiving kindly the advice, which was sometimes more faithfully than courteously given.

Coming one day on board the Solebay, his Royal Highness observed a Bible lying open on the rudder-head. Then, addressing himself to Captain Holloway, he exclaimed, "Why, Jack, you are always reading the Bible! Are you going to write a commentary on it?" "No, sir," replied Holloway, "but the longer I read that book, the greater is my eagerness to return again to the perusal of its contents; for there I learn all the principles of my duty; and, among the rest, "*to trust in the Lord, and not to put confidence in Princes.*"

This plain dealing did not lessen the esteem which his Royal Highness had conceived for his nautical Mentor,

who accompanied him twice in his tour among the islands.

This excellent officer died suddenly at Wells, in Somersetshire, his native city, June 26, 1826, at the advanced age of eighty-four. The veteran had risen at six, his usual hour, apparently not worse than usual, and by eight he was a corpse. He entered the navy in 1760; but, though he had seen much service, and distinguished himself on many occasions as a lieutenant, he did not attain the rank of post-captain till he was near forty years of age. In 1782, he commanded the *Buffalo*, of sixty guns, and was attached to the fleet of Lord Howe, when that great admiral relieved Gibraltar. From that place he was sent to convoy the store-ships to Sardinia; which service, though very difficult, and in the face of the enemy, he effected. On rejoining the fleet within a much less time than could be expected, Captain Lord Leveson Gower congratulated the noble admiral on the event. Lord Howe replied, "The captain of the *Buffalo* has done his duty:" a laconic answer—but, from such a man, it was praise of sterling value.

Captain Holloway commanded the *Duke* at the time of the mutiny at Spithead, in 1797; and was one of the officers who, from their strict adherence to discipline, were turned ashore by the malcontents. His services, as a captain, ended in the *St. George*, which ship was named, when launched, as already noticed, by Prince William. In 1799, he was advanced to the rank of rear-admiral; in 1804, promoted to that of vice-admiral; in 1807, he was made governor of Newfoundland; in 1809, he was raised to the rank of admiral of the blue; and, finally, to that of the red. He was a man whose

character united, in an eminent degree, the virtues of undaunted courage and Christian piety.

Prince William was now very young, not having as yet reached his twenty-second year ; and, therefore, as may well be supposed, standing in need of some able and honest counsellor. This he had in Captain Holloway ; but the instructor he most valued, and by whom he most profited, was Horatio Nelson.

It is recorded of that great character, that, during the term of three years, in which he commanded the *Boreas* in the West Indies, not a single officer or man died, out of her whole complement. The mode he adopted was this :—he never suffered the ship to remain longer than three or four days in any island, at a time. The *Boreas* was always on the wing ; and when it happened that any other ships were in company, the captain was continually forming the line, exercising his men, and chasing. In the hurricane months, when he was obliged to remain at anchor in English Harbour, he encouraged music, dancing, and cudgelling on board ; and the officers, particularly the younger ones, acted plays ; which kept up the spirits of the ship's company, and caused their minds to be constantly employed.

His example was closely imitated by the Prince ; who, as already observed, co-operated zealously with his friend and preceptor, in examining and correcting the gross abuses which prevailed through every part of the naval service at Antigua. This energy and patriotism created enemies ; and evil reports flew swiftly with every gale to England, not only against Nelson, but to the disadvantage of the Prince, whose indiscretions were multiplied ten times beyond the truth, and the circumstances were exaggerated by every art of colouring that

malice could invent. Remonstrances, not very mildly expressed, came back in course from head-quarters ; and admonitions, with cautions, as to future conduct and circumspection, were transmitted also by private friends near connexions.

As long as Nelson remained on the station, the Prince felt himself secure under his protecting shield, and what might almost be termed paternal guardianship. But that steady associate, and excellent director, was now obliged to return ; and, in the month of June, the two friends separated—Nelson, for England ; and the Prince, for Port Royal in Jamaica. On taking leave, his Royal Highness was much depressed, and exacted a promise from Nelson, to stand his advocate in counteracting the reports that had been circulated, with perfidious industry, at home, to the detriment of his character while abroad, when he possessed not the means or opportunity of vindicating his injured reputation in person. This pledge Nelson gave most sincerely ; and he redeemed it amply, with the aid and experience of Captain Locker.

Unfortunately, when the Prince was deprived of his adviser, and left to act upon his own judgment, he did what much older men in the service might, perhaps, have been guilty of, in similar circumstances. Instead of waiting for instructions from the Admiralty, or placing himself under the orders of the commanding officer on the next station, he ran through the Gulf of Florida to Halifax ; from whence he was ordered to Quebec.

This destination was considered, and justly enough, as a kind of exile, not unlike the Russian mode of punishing high offenders against Imperial authority, by sending them to pass their days in Siberia.

Our high-minded Prince, ill-brooking the idea of being

locked up for a whole winter in the ice of the river St. Lawrence, took French leave, and steered for England, though his term of service wanted full six months of its completion. The resolution was exceedingly bold, considering the danger of the voyage at that season of the year, when the hazard of running on the numerous rocks and shoals, which abound in all directions through these seas, was increased by the dense fogs that cover the banks of Newfoundland, and frequently extend all the way to the coast of Ireland. The gallant Prince, however, fearless of these perils, and disregarding the consequences of his temerity, when he should be called to account for that and his previous conduct, persevered in his course, and on Tuesday, the 3rd of December, 1787, entered the Cove of Cork. On nearing the land, his Royal Highness, aware of the state in which he stood, and of the censure to which he was liable, prepared despatches to be transmitted home immediately, by his friend Charles Duke of Rutland, who, when he sailed, was viceroy of Ireland. But here again his Royal Highness was fated to experience a severe disappointment; for the first news that saluted him was, the intelligence of the death of the duke six weeks before, and the removal of his remains to England for interment. The Prince felt this as a private, no less than a public, loss; and such it unquestionably was, particularly to Ireland. The despatches were now sent to the Marquess of Buckingham, the successor of the Duke of Rutland, and by him were, without delay, forwarded to the Board of Admiralty. The Earl of Chatham, then the first lord, and the other commissioners, immediately assembled, and sent off a messenger to Windsor, with the letter which the Prince had written to his Royal Father, in

justification of his general conduct abroad ; and, in defence of the measure he had now adopted, of returning home without leave. The next morning, his Majesty came to town, and held a council on this unpleasant concern • the result of which was, an immediate order for the Pegasus to proceed to Plymouth.

Meanwhile, the Prince received every attention from the civil authorities and gentry of Ireland. His Royal Highness was waited upon by the Mayor of Cork, Mr. James Kingston, with whom he dined at the Mansion House of that city ; as he afterwards did with the merchants, at the King's-arms. He also went to the assembly-room, where he danced with Miss Kellett, daughter of one of the aldermen ; and with Miss Lane, whose father had been town-clerk of Cork. From thence, the Prince went to Youghall ; and there, also, he dined with the corporation. He next visited, accompanied by the high-sheriff, Sir Richard Musgrave, the Earls of Shannon and Grandison ; and lastly, the Marquis of Waterford, at whose seat his Royal Highness received the letter which recalled him to England. In obedience to this command, he set off immediately for Cork, and proceeded to sea ; but, on entering the British Channel, the ship was struck by a violent thunder-storm, which tore the sails to ribands, shivered the mainmast, and did other damage. On the 27th of December, the Pegasus came into the Hamoaze, at Plymouth, after an absence of eighteen months ; and the next day she went into dock to repair.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1788 TO 1789.

WHEN the Prince landed at Plymouth, it was with the intention of proceeding instantly to London, as well to explain those circumstances, which had been grossly misrepresented, to his disadvantage, as to see his family, particularly the Duke of York, who had arrived in England during his absence. Great, therefore, was the chagrin of his Royal Highness, at finding that he was interdicted from leaving the harbour of Plymouth, till he received permission so to do from the Admiralty board. The Pegasus was, therefore, kept in commission, and the Prince ordered to remain, for the purpose of superintending those repairs of which she stood in need.

This, it must be confessed, was hard measure—but, after all, it cannot be called unjust; for, in every service, and in none more than in the navy, discipline and obedience are indispensable. No one could be more sensible of this than the King; and with this feeling, he knew that it would be the height of injustice to punish others for what he excused in his son. When George the Third devoted the Prince to the marine service, he laid it down as a fixed principle, that he should pass through every stage of it in the regular way, and be obliged, when in a subordinate station, to discharge all the duties belonging to that department; as, without such a progressive course, it would scarcely be possible,



Painted by J. Jackson.

Engraved by R. Hicke

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FREDERICK, DUKE OF YORK & ALBANY.

Frederick

FISHER, SON & CO LONDON 1831

that he should know how to discriminate between those who might merit reward and promotion, and those who deserved reprehension and degradation.

It has already been seen, in the complaint of that great and experienced officer, Nelson, that the British navy was, at this very period, in such a state of disorganization, as to require a long time to bring things into a proper condition. Lord Howe, also, was so convinced of this deterioration, that, at the commencement of his brief government as first lord of the Admiralty, he set himself zealously about effecting a change, by drawing up a new code of regulations, for the better discipline of the navy. Among these articles, none could be more strict than those which respected the conduct of the officers; but especially that of the captain, who on no account was to leave the ship, when in England, without permission from the board; or, if abroad, to quit that station to which he was appointed, unless ordered home, or sent on a different service, by the commander under whose orders he might be placed.

It is obvious, that a breach of these rules, if permitted, must inevitably ruin the navy, and prove destructive to our colonial settlements, by depriving them of protection in the event of a war. For, were one captain allowed to quit his post at pleasure, another would claim the same privilege, and exercise it whenever he became dissatisfied with the particular station to which he was attached, or with the senior officer who held the command. In the present case, the example was of a very peculiar and serious character. The Prince was known to be a strict disciplinarian himself; and Black Monday, on board the Pegasus, when the register-book, describing offences and exhibiting the names of

offenders, was publicly read for the allotment of punishment, rarely proved a blank day, much less one of festivity.

Such being the case, the violation of the primary rule of service in the captain, was one that could not, consistently with equity, and a regard to the general welfare, be passed over without censure, or some mark of displeasure. The board of Admiralty certainly stood in an awkward situation, and therefore submitted all the circumstances, and the adjudication, to the King; whose decision was, that the Prince should continue within the limits of Plymouth garrison for as many months as he had been absent from his station, and then to be sent abroad again to Halifax and the West Indies.

The sentence was communicated in due form to the Prince, by the Admiralty; and his Royal Highness submitted to the decree, without impugning its justice.

As the Prince could not leave Plymouth, his two elder brothers resolved to visit him, in what might, truly enough, be called his prison. They, accordingly, left Carlton House on the 6th of January, 1788; and, on the 8th, reached the Dock, now Devonport.

On their arrival, Prince William hastened to meet them; and it was represented, by one who witnessed it, as an affecting sight, to behold the three royal brothers assembled together, after so long a separation. The next morning the Princes, attended by several naval and military officers, visited the dock-yard, and surveyed every object of interest or curiosity with minute attention. In the evening they dined with a select party, and, at eleven o'clock, proceeded to the long-room, at Stonehouse, where was an assemblage of the principal ladies and gentlemen of Plymouth and the neighbourhood.

When the three Princes entered arm-in-arm, the eldest in the centre, they received the compliments of the whole company, which they returned with affability, ease, and dignity. The royal personages, in the course of the evening, danced with Mrs. Depeister, Miss Fanshawe, Miss Wynne, Miss Calton, and Miss Arthur, the reigning beauties of Plymouth. About one in the morning, they retired to rest. On the following day, their Royal Highnesses went afloat; and the whole fleet in Hamoaze manned the yards, and saluted with twenty-one guns each. After riding to Maker Heights, and taking a survey of Whitsand Bay, Penlee Point, and the Ram Head, the Princes returned to Dock—dined—and in the evening went again to the Long-Room, where the night was spent as before, “frisking light in frolic measure.”

The next day, the two elder Princes, taking coach at the barrier-gate, drove through the town very slowly, and, being again saluted from the ramparts of the citadel with twenty-one guns, bade adieu to their brother, and set out on their return to London.

Soon after this, Prince William was visited at Plymouth by his friend Nelson, who remained here some weeks, during which period, they were consulted by some of the gentlemen of Antigua, respecting a reform of the prevalent abuses in that island. In answer to a letter which he had just received on that subject, Nelson said, “You may rest assured, that no steps shall be left untaken by me, to accomplish the discovery of these mal-practices, and to get you the reward which, I have not the least doubt, you will so well merit. I must, nevertheless, apprise you, that my interest in this country is very small; therefore do not build on what I

can do for you. Indeed, little else but my integrity and public spirit can bring such a humble individual as myself into notice: however, the goodness of the cause we are engaged in, will support itself at all times; more especially, I dare say, with such an upright character as Mr. Pitt. His Royal Highness commands me to say, that, were he placed in a situation where he could be of any service to this cause, he would most assuredly sift it to the bottom; but that, at present, not having been from this port since his arrival, he can only give his good wishes for the accomplishment of what you have begun."

Though many difficulties occurred, and much delay was experienced, in this work of reform, the investigation now set on foot had the effect of producing an immense saving to Government, and of preventing such extensive frauds in future.

In the summer, the *Andromeda* frigate was put in commission, and the command given to Prince William-Henry, but under the special direction of Admiral Gower. The present admiral, Sir Charles Morrice Pole was the first-lieutenant; and the late Dr. Majendie, the Prince's former tutor, was appointed chaplain of the ship, and private-secretary to his Royal Highness.

After cruising some weeks in the Channel, from Dungeness to the Lizard, and along the coast of France, the admiral returned to Cawsand Bay on the 21st of July; and, immediately, on his landing, the *Andromeda* proceeded again to sea, for Halifax, where she arrived at the end of August.

From this concise statement of simple facts, the reader will judge of the degree of credit due to the following

relation, contained in a work recently published, under the title of “*Memoirs of the Life and Reign of George the Fourth* ;” but which might more properly have been denominated a Libel, from beginning to end, upon the whole Royal Family.

After noticing the arrival of Prince William at Plymouth, the author says,—“He found himself in disgrace on his return, in consequence of his having overdrawn his money bills. The excess of the young Prince’s expenditure over his income, was accounted for, in the same manner as his elder brother’s, by the insufficiency of his allowance ; and his vindication was borne out by a fact. He was allowed only £1,200 a year for his table, as captain of a frigate, after Admiral Digby had been allowed £1,000 a year for his table as a midshipman. This accords with the King’s character—he was parsimonious to the members of his family, and in his own habits, but prodigal in personal favouritism and parliamentary corruption. The common crowd was artfully reconciled by his barren parsimony in the one case, to his oppressive prodigality in the other, and to the frequent discharge of the arrears of the civil list.

“Prince William was refused leave to quit his ship at Cork, for the purpose of visiting Dublin ; and at Plymouth, the absence of invitation from the King, or leave from the Admiralty, apprised him that his presence was not desired at Buckingham House. The Prince of Wales and Duke of York joined, and passed some days with him at Plymouth, which, for the time, was enlivened by festivities and illuminations. Prince William could not obtain leave to quit his ship ; but it was said, that, like a true sailor, he consoled himself with falling in love. The supposed object of his affection was a young

lady, named Wynne, the daughter of a merchant. He was passing his time very agreeably at Plymouth, when a sudden order sent him to sea again, in command of the *Andromeda*, with Admiral Gower. The motive of this order was, to separate him from the lady; and a trick was at the same time played upon him by the Admiralty. His ship, when he sailed, not being provided for a foreign station, he supposed himself going only on a short cruise. When the day came for the separation of the *Andromeda* from the squadron, he was informed that his destination was the West Indies; and that, to prevent the delay of his returning for stores, the *Andromeda* should be provided from some of the other ships, which 'had luckily brought out the proper supply.' He obeyed the signal for parting—walked the quarter-deck in no very tranquil mood—'muttered a prayer or two,' with more energy than devotion, for the first lord of the Admiralty—and ordered the master to direct his course for Antigua."

Here we have a little truth, but more falsehood; and the whole blended and coloured, with an obvious design to vilify and bring into contempt the living as well as the dead.

Every person at all acquainted with the economy of the navy, must be aware, that the allowances to officers are necessarily different, according to the respective rates of the ships, the nature of the service, and the professional rank of the commanders. The grant to Admiral Digby was for a specific purpose, and therefore ought not to have been mentioned in the way of comparison. What the Prince subsequently received for the support of his cabin, in such a small vessel as the *Pegasus*, should be considered liberal, rather than par-

simonious, when added to the ordinary allowance of a post-captain on board a frigate. Besides which, it will bear a question, whether a more splendid establishment would not have been injurious to the service, by introducing a spirit of emulative prodigality, among officers who could ill afford such a competition, and, still worse, by drawing them aside from the path of true honour, to indulge in folly and amusement.

Lord Kames has well observed, that, according to our present manners, where luxury and selfishness prevail, it appears an egregious blunder to enrich a general or an admiral during his command. "This single error against good policy," says he, "has reduced Britain more than once to a low condition, and will ruin it at last." But there is no occasion to pursue any further argument on a calumny which carries its own refutation throughout; for, as to what is said of the Prince, that he was refused permission to visit Dublin on his arrival from the Halifax station, it is of the same complexion with the rest. No such refusal could be made—because no such favour was ever asked. It is true, that the Prince was not invited to Buckingham House; and the reason why he was not, has already been given. The amorous story is extracted from an idle romance published at the period; and the foolish one, of a trick played by the Admiralty to decoy the Prince to sea, is a clumsy invention, as void of all foundation of truth, as the obsolete tale of the meditated kidnapping of his Royal Highness's Grandfather, and transporting him to America. Yet this is history, according to the principles of the new school of literary morality, which, regardless of all consequences, assumes a right to adopt any fiction that may serve the purpose of party, and blacken the

reputation of public men. But to proceed with our narrative.

Prince William did not continue long at Halifax. In pursuance of his instructions, he sailed from thence, at the setting in of winter, to the West Indies, and in the middle of November arrived at his old station in the island of Jamaica. As the following anecdote has recently appeared in print, it cannot well be omitted in this record ; though the story, it must be allowed, carries a very apocryphal appearance.

The *Andromeda* reached the harbour of Port Royal after dusk, and his Royal Highness, with the first-lieutenant, proceeded in the barge to the shore. They immediately, in their uniforms, entered the public-rooms, and the new-comer, as captain of one of his Majesty's ships, was good-humouredly greeted by the military officers, with whom he played several games at billiards. After some inquiries, the Prince requested his antagonist, the Colonel-commandant, to have the goodness to parade his regiment at day-light, as HE wished to INSPECT IT ! The astonishment excited by such a request from a captain of the navy, was only equalled by the surprise, when, on explanation, it was discovered from whom it came.

Great was the joy of the inhabitants of Jamaica at having their favourite once more among them ; and some of the principal persons of that important colony were inclined to hope, that on application, by petition, to the authorities in England, they might succeed in obtaining Prince William for their residentiary governor. Circumstances, however, shortly occurred, which put an end to the expectation, though not to the attachment that had so long subsisted between the islanders and their illustrious friend and advocate.

On the second of December, the House of Assembly voted one thousand guineas, to be laid out in the purchase of an elegant star, ornamented with diamonds, and presented to the Prince, as a "humble testimony of the very high respect and esteem the Island entertains for his eminent virtues, and the happiness they feel at seeing him once more amongst them; as well as of the grateful sense they have of the particular attention which his Royal Highness pays to the duties of a profession, which is the support and defence of the British Empire in general, and of this island in particular."

When the committee of the House waited on His Royal Highness, to request his acceptance of the star, he received them in the politest manner—declared himself unconscious of any merit that could entitle him to such a mark of regard—and assured them he should ever remember, with peculiar pleasure, their sentiments of loyalty and affection for his person.

During the Prince's stay, he attended the debates in the senate of Jamaica, with which he was much pleased; and particularly so with the resolutions then passed in his presence, for revising the code of slavery, and ameliorating the condition of the negroes.

This Colonial Act contained the following reforms, expressed in the simple language of men unused to technicalities and legal verbiage:—

First.—Every proprietor of a slave is prohibited from turning him away when incapacitated by age or sickness, but must provide for him wholesome necessities of life, under the penalty of ten pounds for every offence.

Secondly.—Every person who mutilates a slave shall pay a fine, not exceeding one hundred pounds; and be

imprisoned for a term, not exceeding twelve months; and, in very atrocious cases, the slaves to be declared free.

Thirdly.—Any person wantonly, or bloody-mindedly, killing a slave, shall suffer death.

Fourthly.—Any person whipping, bruising, wounding, or imprisoning a slave, not his property, nor under his care, shall suffer fine and imprisonment.

Fifthly.—A parochial tax to be raised for the support of negroes disabled by sickness and old age, having no owners.

The necessity of the last article will best appear in the relation of an incident which occurred some years before these regulations were made. The story is thus told, in a letter from a lady at Jamaica to one of her female friends in England.

“One morning, taking an airing along the piazza leading from Kingston to the fields, an old negro, who was sitting there, begged alms of me. I passed on without taking any notice of him; but immediately reflecting upon the poor fellow’s situation, being aged and a cripple, I turned back, and gave him a bit, (a silver coin almost fivepence in value,) telling him at the same time, that I had got but a few more remaining to myself. The negro expressed his gratitude and good wishes, and I went my way. Some days afterwards, having occasion to pass the same spot, I again saw the negro, seated as before: on my nearer approach, he made an effort to advance towards me, but his infirmities disabled him from getting further than a few steps, by which means I had an opportunity of proceeding without being interrupted. Upon this he called after me, but I still walked on, without regarding him; seeing which, he raised his voice to a higher pitch, begging me to speak with him for only one moment.

Curious to hear what the poor creature had to say, I returned; when he delivered himself to this effect:—that as soon as I had left him the other day, he concluded, from what I had said when I relieved him, that I was myself in distress; that it grieved him to see a lady in want; nor could be happy till he saw me again. He then pulled out a purse, containing twenty-eight doubloons, which he pressed me to accept, saying, that he could collect more, and quite sufficient to keep him from starving, but that a lady could not beg, and, therefore, must die for want of ‘*yam, yam,*’ meaning bread, if she had no money. I thanked the grateful creature for his sympathy; but told him, that I had got more money since I saw him, and therefore did not want it.

“I then asked him, ‘how his master suffered him to beg, since he was so old and decrepit?’ He told me, that now, since he could work no more, his master had discarded him, under the plea of giving him his freedom; but, in reality, to get rid of an encumbrance. He said, that he had been a slave from his infancy, and that his sores were occasioned by constant labour and hard usage. After presenting him another trifle, and cautioning him not to discover his money to any person, lest he might be robbed, I took my leave; reflecting on the affecting adventure I had experienced.”

At the end of January, 1789, the *Andromeda* sailed from Port Royal, and, after a tedious passage along the coast of America, reached her former station in Nova Scotia. Here the Prince first became acquainted with the melancholy condition of the King; and the agitated state of the nation, by the proceedings, then going on in Parliament, respecting the Regency Bill. In the course of those debates, when that part of the bill

for nominating the persons who should constitute the Queen's council, in the care of the King's person, came to be discussed, Lord North, in the House of Commons, moved, "that his Royal Highness Prince William-Henry be one of her Majesty's council:" but the motion was negatived; as also was that for nominating the Duke of York, and other members of the Royal Family. During these important, but stormy discussions, which were carried on in a most acrimonious spirit, no official communication was made to the absent Prince; perhaps, because he was not yet a peer in Parliament. His private letters, however, were from friends who took an active part, and were mainly concerned, in the great question then pending in the two houses. It may well be supposed, therefore, that his Royal Highness's feelings were wrought up to a pitch of intense anxiety on a subject of such moment, and which affected him so very nearly. But it was not till the beginning of April, that he received his letters of recall; and, on entering the Channel, after a speedy run of twenty-one days, he was greeted with the gratifying intelligence of his father's convalescence, and resumption of the regal functions.

The Prince landed at Spithead on the 29th of April; and on the 2d of May he arrived at Windsor, when he was immediately introduced both to the King and Queen, from whom he met with an affectionate welcome.

A fortnight afterwards, the London Gazette contained the following announcement:—"His Majesty has been pleased to grant to Prince William-Henry, and to his heirs male lawfully begotten, the dignities of Duke of the kingdom of Great Britain, and of Earl of the kingdom of Ireland; by the names, styles, and titles of Duke of Clarence, and of St. Andrew's, in the kingdom of

Great Britain, and of Earl of Munster, in the kingdom of Ireland."

The nation at this time exhibited, from one end to the other, a splendid scene of joy and gladness. The illuminations and entertainments in the metropolis were of a description infinitely surpassing any pageantry that had ever been known before, and certainly have never been equalled since.

Of these magnificent spectacles, the principal had passed previous to the arrival of Prince William; but, on the 29th of May, his Royal Highness was present at the gala of the French ambassador in Portman Square. This fête, though gorgeous, fell far short of that given at Ranelagh by the Marquess del Campo, the Spanish minister, who seems to have made it his study in what way he could lavish most money for the honour of his country. The supper-room, fitted up for the Queen and Royal Family, was under a rich canopy, in the form of a tent, made of white satin fringed with gold. The whole service was of solid gold, and the decorations corresponded in elegance. The table-cloth alone was of the value of ninety guineas. There were all sorts of the choicest fruits, and the most exquisite wines; some of which had been actually sent from Spain for the purpose.

There were two hundred other boxes, for the rest of the company; the lower ones being laid open, by the curtains of the tents drawing up; and all were served in the most luxuriant style.

In the interim between these two extravagant and perhaps rival entertainments, Prince William-Henry gave one on the 1st of June, at Willis's Subscription House, out of compliment to his brothers, and in honour of the title to which he had himself been just advanced.

The rooms were elegantly decorated with festoons of red and white roses, emblematic of union, and which, intermingled, made a most beautiful appearance. The apartment, where the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of York and Clarence sat, with their select friends, was splendidly ornamented with blue silk and flowers, in various combinations. At the upper end of the room were three transparencies, representing the armorial bearings of the royal brothers; on the right side were the Coldstream colours, with the insignia of the order of the Garter; on the left was a flag, with an anchor, and these words underneath, "UNITED FOR EVER."

It could not be concealed that, amidst all this outward shew of pleasure, there was, in the Royal Family, something that disturbed its repose, and divided one part from the other. If the entertainment given by the newly-created Duke was insufficient to excite suspicion, by its confining the festal union to the three Princes, whose banners were displayed on the occasion; the gala of the Spanish ambassador, on the day following, exhibited a proof that the shew of harmony was but ill supported. Though the three elder Princes were there, neither one nor the other sat at the same table with the rest of the Family, nor joined in the dance with the Princesses. The cause of all this was not long to seek.

The absence of Prince William during the late distressing crisis was to him a fortunate circumstance; for though his Royal Highness could not have borne any public part in the legislative proceedings then pursuing, it was not in the nature of things that he should view them with indifference, particularly in respect to the question of his brother's claim of hereditary right to the Regency, and to the unlimited exercise of all the regal powers during

the incapacity of the King. When, therefore, his Royal Highness returned home, he might have maintained the ground of neutrality with perfect safety ; for there was no dispute now subsisting to call him into the political field. Properly speaking, the subject was no more in existence, than as a mere matter of history and speculation. But the conduct of those persons who had figured most prominently in the contention could not all at once be forgotten, nor easily be forgiven. While the Royal patient lay in a state that demanded the absorption of all political differences, and the suspension of ambitious intrigues, cabals were incessantly at work, even in the very palace, for the purpose of effecting immediate changes in every department of the government. Carlton House exhibited all the significant appearances of intense anxiety, not that arising from concern and grief, but the impatience of hope, and the eagerness of expectation.

The birds of prey flocked from every quarter of the heavens, anticipating the immediate indulgence of their wishes in the partition of places and pensions, that had been assured to them for their fidelity to the Heir-apparent.

Even the convenient mask of decorum was laid aside by these insatiate place-hunters, who, dazzled with the rays that blazed suddenly around them, rushed forth in impetuous eagerness to profit by the change of circumstances ; each saying to his neighbour—let us hasten to the field of plunder :

“ The sun shines hot, and if we use delay,
Cold biting winter mars our hoped-for hay.”

With a little cautious discretion, the adventurers might have gained credit for their moderation ; and have

strengthened their interests, by contributing to the harmony of the royal household. But the intoxication of the moment made them insensible of every thing, except the fascinating charm of power.

The Heir-apparent, by setting himself up as the head of this party, now became responsible for their principles and practices, whether he in his heart approved them or not. It was impossible, indeed, to make any distinction between the Prince and the political body with whom he was associated. They were embarked in one desperate enterprise ; and, therefore, were fated alike to share the consequences. The storm came as suddenly as the sunshine had done ; and when the Prince's friends were on the very point of gathering the fruits of the harvest, the whole was swept from their grasp, leaving to them the bitter reflection of being the authors of their own disgrace.

To keep from the restored Monarch all knowledge of what had occurred in his family, and in Parliament, while he lay in a state of insensibility, would have been as impracticable, as to persuade him that the party who had been so forward in filling the throne before it was vacant, could either be his friends, or those of his son. George the Third must have been something more than man, if he had not felt with pain, conduct which so nearly resembled that of Harry of Monmouth, in taking the crown from the pillow of his dying father. But, whatever were the feelings of the King on his recovery, he only expressed them by silent reserve ; which, however, could not be mistaken, especially when the Queen deported herself with a similar chilliness. Taking all this as a repulsion, the two elder Princes withdrew from court ; and in that state of voluntary exile, their brother

found them on his arrival. A few days afterwards, the King sent a letter to Prince William, in which the royal writer stated, in strong terms, his disapprobation of the proceedings and connexions of the Prince of Wales throughout the late perilous crisis. This letter was communicated with permission to the Heir-apparent; who, when the King returned from his excursion to the western coast, wrote an exculpatory epistle to his Majesty, as follows:—

“ SIR,

“ Thinking it probable that I should have been honoured with your commands to attend on your Majesty on Wednesday last, I have unfortunately lost the opportunity of paying my duty to your Majesty before your departure for Weymouth. The accounts I have received of your Majesty's health have given me the greatest satisfaction; and should it be your Majesty's intention to return to Weymouth, I trust, Sir, there will be no impropriety in my then entreating your Majesty's gracious attention to a point of the greatest moment to the peace of my own mind, and one in which I am convinced your Majesty's feelings are equally interested. Your Majesty's letter to my brother the Duke of Clarence in May last, was the first direct intimation I had ever received that my conduct, and that of my brother the Duke of York, during your Majesty's late lamented illness, had brought on us the heavy misfortune of your Majesty's displeasure. I should be wholly unworthy the return of your Majesty's confidence and good opinion, which will ever be the first objects of my life, if I could have read the passage in that letter without the deepest sorrow and regret for the effect produced on your Majesty's mind, though at the same time I felt the firmest persuasion that your Majesty's generosity and goodness would never permit that effect to remain, without affording us an opportunity of knowing what had been urged against us—of replying to our accusers, and of justifying our

selves, if the means of justification were in our power. Great, however, as my impatience and anxiety were on this subject, I felt it a superior consideration not to intrude any unpleasing agitating discussions upon your Majesty's attention, during an excursion devoted to the ease and amusement necessary for the re-establishment of your Majesty's health. I determined to sacrifice my own feelings, and to wait with resignation till the fortunate opportunity should arrive, when your Majesty's own paternal goodness would, I was convinced, lead you even to invite your sons to that fair hearing, which your justice would not deny to the meanest individual of your subjects. In this painful interval, I have employed myself in drawing up a full statement and account of my conduct during the period alluded to, and of the motives and circumstances which influenced me. When these shall be humbly submitted to your Majesty's consideration, I may possibly be found to have erred in judgment, and to have acted on mistaken principles, but I have the most assured conviction that I shall not be found to have been deficient in that duteous affection to your Majesty which nothing shall ever diminish. Anxious for every thing that may contribute to the comfort and satisfaction of your Majesty's mind, I cannot omit this opportunity of lamenting those appearances of a less gracious disposition in the Queen, towards my brothers and myself, than we were accustomed to experience; and to assure your Majesty, that if, by your affectionate interposition, these most unpleasant sensations should be happily removed, it would be an event not less grateful to our minds, than satisfactory to your Majesty's own benign disposition. "G. P."

This letter was supposed to be written by Sheridan; and the memorial alluded to, is presumed to have been the laboured composition of Sir Gilbert Elliot, afterwards Lord Minto. Neither the one nor the other could erase the impression that had been made upon the

mind of the King, by the knowledge that his own children had suffered themselves to be drawn into what he considered an unnatural alliance, at a time, and under circumstances, when a voice more solemn than from the tomb warned them against all political confederacies, as tending to bring them into subjection to a party, and thereby lessening their own power of doing good.

The letter attributed to Sheridan is altogether such a piece of affected humility, that no wonder could be made of its remaining unanswered. George the Third was a man of plain understanding, but of quick discernment; and he could not avoid seeing, in this artful epistle, evidences of a spirit more determined upon justification than submission. In truth, there is not one word of pure contrition throughout the whole letter; and the insinuations at the close, reflecting upon the Queen, added oil to the flame.

At this time, it appears that the three royal brothers were under the cloud of paternal displeasure; the Duke of Clarence, however, was soon restored to favour, for, on the 23d of September, he had a private audience in the King's closet, previous to the first levee that was held after his Majesty's recovery.

Having brought the history down to this important period, it may not be amiss to expose another egregious misrepresentation and gross calumny contained in the Memoir of George the Fourth, already mentioned.

“The first act of the Prince of Wales, had he entered on the exercise of the regency, would have been to create his brother, Prince William, a peer. On the arrival of the latter in the spring, he found the King restored to his functions; and, after some short delay,

was created Duke of Clarence. He entered into the society, amusements, and interests of the Prince with the same familiarity and zeal as the Duke of York; and afforded frequent matter for conversation by his naval frankness, and his whimsical application of that most figurative of all languages—the vocabulary of sailors. A curious rencontre was said to have taken place the morning after the French ambassador's gala, between him and the well-known Madame Schwellenberg. Having called at Buckingham House, he was shewn into a room in which he found this German favourite of the Queen. Upon his entrance, the lady retired precipitately; but soon returned to apologise for her rudeness, by saying, “she thought it was the Duke of York.” “And suppose it was the Duke of York!” said the enraged sailor, saluting her ears with a quarter-deck rebuke, of which the only part that can be cited, was the threat of “a stinging dozen before all the pages of the back stairs.”

What is here said of the Prince's intention to create his brother a peer is true; but the act would not have been his, any farther than that of carrying into effect what had been long before determined. When the second son of George the Third received the title of York, the King himself resolved to revive that of Clarence, in favour of Prince William. The patent was even made out in due form, and waited only the arrival of his Royal Highness, and the sign-manual, to be completed.

The other story calls for particular notice.

Madame Schwellenberg came to England with the Queen, whose attendant she was from the infancy of her Majesty, to the last hour of her own existence, which

terminated very suddenly in 1797, at Buckingham House. At the period when the fore-castle scene is said to have happened, the German lady was near, if not quite, sixty years of age; is it therefore credible that the Prince, who, when a child, had been a favourite of Madam Schwellenberg, could so far lose sight of what was due to his own rank, as to behave in such a manner towards the friend of his youth, and that, too, without any provocation?

The very supposition of his being capable of such a flagrant breach of good manners would be a serious impeachment of his character as a man of honour; and, therefore, the publication of the story, whether it be false or true, can be considered in no other light than as a designed injury to his reputation, by representing him as having contracted at sea nothing better than low habits and vulgar language.

Should it be said that the circumstance, even if it actually occurred, is not of moment, and that, being reported by a concealed writer, it is little calculated to do mischief, let the answer be in the words of our immortal dramatist:—

“ The instruments of darkness tell us truths ·
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
In deepest consequence.”

BOOK THE SECOND.

CHAPTER I.

ON the 8th of June, 1789, Prince William-Henry was introduced into the House of Lords, and took the oaths and his seat as **DUKE OF CLARENCE**, being the fourth possessor of that royal distinction in the course of five centuries. As the history of the title, and of those who have enjoyed it, may be said to be curious, and is but little known, we shall be excused for devoting some pages to the subject.

Clare, in Suffolk, on the river Stour, gave the title of Earl, first to Gilbert, the son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, who is styled in the pedigree, "Seigneur de Clare-en-Caux," that is, of Caux, in Normandy, whence the family originated. This Earl Gilbert married Adeliza, daughter of the Earl of Claremont, and had issue, Richard, the second Earl of Clare, and Gilbert, surnamed Strongbow, created by King Stephen Earl of Pembroke, which last lord died in 1149.

The last-mentioned Richard Fitz-Gilbert, Earl of Clare, and Lord of Tonbridge, married Adeliza, sister to Randolph de Meschines, Earl of Chester, by whom he had two sons, Gilbert and Roger. Gilbert, who styled himself Earl of Clare and Hertford, died without issue,

and was succeeded in the above honours by his brother, called Roger the Good. His son Richard married Amicia, daughter and one of the heirs of William, Earl of Gloucester, and had issue, Gilbert, who succeeded his father in the titles of Clare and Hertford; to which he added, in right of his mother, the earldom of Gloucester. He married Isabel, sister of Anselm Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and died in 1230. Richard de Clare, who next succeeded to the honours of Clare, Hertford, and Gloucester, married Margaret, daughter of Hugo de Burgh, Earl of Kent; and, secondly, Matilda or Maud, daughter of John Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. By this last lady he had issue, first, Gilbert, the seventh earl; second, Thomas, who became Steward of the Royal Forest in Essex; third, Bevis, styled Treasurer of York Minster, and four daughters.

Gilbert, surnamed the Red, succeeded Richard as Earl of Clare, Hertford, and Gloucester. He had also two wives; first, Alice, daughter of Hugh de Brun, Earl of Angoulesme, by whom he had one daughter, Isabel; and secondly, Joan, surnamed of Acres, daughter of King Edward the First, by whom he had issue, one son, Gilbert, and three daughters, Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Margaret.

Gilbert de Clare, the only son of the last-mentioned Gilbert, is said to have died young, leaving the inheritance to his sisters; after which, the title of Clare fell to the crown, and the name was changed to Clarence.

Another account, however, states that this last Gilbert was slain at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, leaving a son, also called Gilbert, who, dying issueless, was the last Earl of Clare.

It merits notice in this place, that one of the first barons whose signature and seal were affixed to the Great

Charter of English liberty, was Richard, the second Earl of Clare ; and that the name of his uncle Gilbert stands the tenth on the list.

The dignity of Clare remained dormant till the marriage of LIONEL, surnamed of Antwerp, third son of King Edward, to Elizabeth de Burgh and Clare. In virtue of this alliance, the Prince became Earl of Ulster in Ireland, to which country he went in 1362, with an army of fifteen hundred men, to secure his property in that kingdom. At the meeting of Parliament in Westminster, on the 13th of November that year, he was created Duke of CLARENCE, which, as before observed, is only another termination of the ancient title. The day on which this elevation took place was celebrated by the King as a jubilee, on account of his completing the fiftieth year of his age. That the people might rejoice sincerely on the occasion, all prisoners, except those of unpardonable crimes, were released ; debtors of every description were discharged ; and exiles were recalled. Upon a petition from the Commons, it was also ordered by the King, that all pleadings, which before were in French, should be made in English, that the subject " might understand the law by which he holds what he hath, and to know what he doth."

At the same time was passed a statute for purveyors, enacting, that no provisions for the King's court should be taken up without the consent of the owners, and the payment of ready money at the fair market price.

In 1363, the Duke of Clarence was deprived of his duchess, who was buried in the church of the Benedictines, at Clare, which, with the priory annexed, was founded by the first earl of the family. The duchess left only one child, a daughter, named Philippa, who married

Edmund Mortimer, Earl of Marche, by whom she had a son, Roger, whose daughter Ann, on the death of Richard the Second, was the rightful heir to the throne, which was, however, usurped by Henry the Fourth; and this laid the foundation of the long and bloody wars between the two houses of York and Lancaster.

Elizabeth de Clare, wife of Duke Lionel, founded, in 1347, Clare Hall, in the University of Cambridge, after remaining a widow seven or eight years.

Lionel, Duke of Clarence, married Violante, the daughter of the Duke of Milan; where, say some of our chronicles, the people feasted him to such a degree, that he died soon after, without any issue by that princess. Whatever truth there may be in this strange story, it is certain that the second nuptials of the duke were speedily followed by his funeral; and that his remains, being brought to England, were deposited near those of his first duchess, in the priory of Clare. He was born at Antwerp in 1338, and died in 1371. Of all the family, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, most resembled his father king Edward, and his brother the Black Prince, in the noble qualities of honour, heroism, and generosity.

In 1412, Henry the Fourth having deposed and murdered Richard the Second, and deprived the descendants of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, of their right to the crown, bestowed the ducal title, by patent, upon his second son Thomas Plantagenet, whom he had before created Earl of Aumerle, or Albemarle.

This THOMAS, Duke of Clarence, accompanied his brother Henry the Fifth to France, where he distinguished himself greatly by his prowess, being always in the front of danger, and the last out of it, whenever he was engaged.

At the siege of Harfleur, the duke led the van of the army, and invested the town, after passing the river in the face of a numerous force of horse and foot, whom he compelled to retire within the walls for safety. This done, the King on one side kept all supplies and succours from entering the place; while the Duke of Clarence, on the other, battered the town with cannon charged with great stones.

Besides these pieces of ordnance, "the duke," say our old historians, "employed other engines, of such prodigious force, that they threw up into the air masses of rock and millstones of an immense magnitude, which crushed every thing that came in their way, and destroyed a vast number of houses." On the reduction of Harfleur, the Duke of Clarence returned to England with part of the army, while the King, at the head of the remainder, proceeded towards Calais. The duke, however, rejoined his brother time enough to share in the laurels of Agincourt—a battle to which, in all its great circumstances, that of Waterloo bore a striking resemblance. Shortly after this glorious victory, the Emperor Sigismund landed in England, and was conducted to London by the Duke of Clarence; an historical incident, not otherwise meriting notice, than as having obtained a parallel in the memorable visit of the Russian and Prussian Monarchs in a ship commanded by our Royal Admiral, and present Sovereign.

On the 23d of July, 1417, King Henry and his brother the Duke of Clarence, embarked again for France, with a long train of nobles and knights. After taking possession of several towns and castles, the English army marched against Caen, which was strongly fortified. The King, apprehensive that the French garrison would

set fire to the suburbs, sent his brother forward with one thousand men, to prevent the design. When the duke arrived, he found the houses in flames, which the soldiers soon extinguished, and thus secured quarters for themselves. Possession was also taken of the abbey of St. Stephen in a very remarkable manner. The French, intending to make use of this monastery as an outpost for the defence of the city, had filled it with soldiers; but upon the approach of the English, they resolved to quit it, with the treasures, and set the building on fire.

One of the monks overhearing the design, got out at midnight, undiscovered, and came to the duke, who was lying in his armour, upon the grass in a garden, with a stone for his pillow. The monk earnestly entreated him to preserve a religious house which his royal ancestor had founded, and offered to be his guide to that part which was unguarded, and where the place might be easily surprised. The duke, upon this, ordered his men to bring their scaling ladders, and follow silently the directions of the monk. They did so, and mounted the wall without resistance.

At the storming of the city, the Duke of Clarence was the first that entered, and, after forcing his way through some troops which defended the bridge, he marched along the streets till he came to the quarter where the King was making his assault, and to which part most of the garrison had hastened to oppose him. The duke, by falling upon their rear, threw them into confusion, and, his soldiers having forced open the gates, the King at the head of the army entered without further resistance.

The valour of the Duke of Clarence was equally conspicuous and successful at the siege and capture of

Rouen, for which he obtained large grants of lands in Normandy. By taking Ponthoise, the duke opened the way to Paris, before which city he soon appeared; and, in consequence, the whole of the French court fled to Troyes.

A truce now followed, and a treaty was concluded, by which the King of England, on his marriage with the Princess Catherine, was declared heir to the crown of France; Charles the Dauphin being deprived of all right to the same, for his treacherous murder of the Duke of Burgundy. The marriage having been celebrated with great pomp, Henry took his Queen to England, that her coronation might be performed with the accustomed solemnities at Westminster.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Clarence, who held the command of the army in his brother's absence, as lieutenant-general, hearing that the Dauphin was collecting a large force in Anjou, hastened with a body of his best troops into that province, which was decidedly in the interest of the disinherited Prince, who had also the assistance of seven thousand Scots, under the Earl of Buchan. The French and their allies having joined, advanced to Baugy, or Beaujeu, to impede the progress of the duke; but, it being Easter, they rested there, and, thinking that the English would be more inclined to devotional than to warlike exercises at such a season, they took no measures for their security against a sudden attack. The duke, as he sat at dinner, received intelligence of this carelessness; upon which, he rose immediately from table, and, putting himself at the head of his cavalry, galloped on, to charge the enemy in their post, leaving the body of the army to follow him, under the command of the Earl of Salisbury. His progress was so rapid,

and he came upon the outpost of the French so suddenly, that they fled, and took refuge in a church, from the tower and roof of which they threw down stones and other missiles upon their assailants, who were endeavouring to break open the doors. By this time, the alarm spread, and brought up a party of Scotch archers, who annoyed the English so much, that the duke dismounted, and, with his men, fought on foot. The bowmen now gave way, and would have been driven from the field, had not the Earl of Buchan appeared with his cavalry, just as the Duke of Clarence was in the act of remounting his horse. A fierce combat ensued between the two foes, whose animosity to each other was inveterate, to a degree that far exceeded even the hatred of the French to the English. The duke, though severely wounded in the face by the thrust of a lance, rushed forward to encounter the Earl of Buchan, who, with one blow of his truncheon, felled him to the ground, and he was killed instantly. The English being disheartened by the loss of their princely leader, abandoned the field, and the darkness of the night covered their retreat.

Buchanan, in his usual spirit of exaggeration, says, that more than two thousand of the English fell at this battle of Baugy; but the foreign historians, who had better means of information, state the entire loss to have been fifteen hundred.

The body of the Duke of Clarence, in the rich armour which he wore, and the coronet of gold, adorned with jewels, that ornamented the helmet, was put by the enemy into a cart, to be carried to the Dauphin, who then lay at Touraine. But they did not long keep either that or the field of battle; for, though the English infantry could not advance soon enough to save their

royal commander, they came up in sufficient time to rescue his remains from the enemy, who made a precipitate retreat. The corpse of the duke was then conveyed to Rouen, from whence it was sent to England, and interred with great solemnity at Canterbury. Thomas, Duke of Clarence married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and the widow of John Beaufort, Earl of Pomfret or Pontefract. By the duchess, who survived him, the duke had no issue; but he left a natural son, who is known in history only under the cognomen of The Bastard-of-Clarence John.

The king greatly lamented the loss he had sustained in the death of his brother, to whom he was much attached; notwithstanding the caution which he had received from his father, to be on his guard against the designs of Clarence. "He is," said the dying monarch, "a man of an ambitious spirit and daring courage; who, reckless of consequences, will aim at the highest dignity, and should he succeed, the nation will suffer dreadful miseries; the thought of which makes me repent that I ever meddled with the crown." In this foreboding, Henry the Fourth was mistaken. No man could be more esteemed than Thomas Duke of Clarence, both at home and in France, for his valour and his virtue: though it must be admitted that he wanted discretion, of which the manner of his death is a proof.

GEORGE PLANTAGENET, the second son of Richard Duke of York, who was killed at the battle of Wakefield, was created Duke of Clarence by his brother Edward the Fourth on June 29th, 1461. At the same time, Richard, the younger brother of Edward, was made Duke of Gloucester, and both creations were confirmed by the Parliament which assembled at Westminster the same year.

On the 11th of July, 1469, George, Duke of Clarence, being then scarcely twenty, was married at Calais to Isabella, the daughter and co-heiress of the great Earl of Warwick, commonly called "the King-maker." The earl, who was then governor of that important fortress, returned soon after with his son-in-law to England, and both were well received by the King; who, however, within three months, issued a commission of array against his brother and others, therein named, "as rebels that had confederated to liberate Henry of Lancaster from the Tower, and to place him on the throne."

Notwithstanding this, such was the strange fluctuation of things at that period, the commission was superseded; and, in less than three months, Warwick and Clarence were empowered to levy forces, to suppress a rebellion raised in Lincolnshire by Sir Robert Wells. The king marched himself in the same direction, and for the same object; but suddenly changed his course, and hastened to Windsor. This conduct so offended the Earl and the Duke, that they instigated Wells to continue in arms, by promising him their co-operation and assistance. He accordingly held the field, was defeated, and with his father, Lord Wells, who had not joined in the enterprise, suffered death. Wells before his execution made a confession, which obliged Warwick and Clarence to hasten out of the kingdom. They sailed from Dartmouth for Calais, but were refused admittance by the deputy governor; who would not even suffer the Duchess of Clarence to land, though she was very sick, and had been delivered of a son only two or three days before, on board the small vessel, in which the embarkation was so sudden, that they were almost destitute of common necessities. Having procured, though not without some difficulty, two

or three flagons of wine, and a little fine bread for the ladies, they proceeded along the coast to Harfleur, which harbour they entered on the second of May, and were hospitably entertained, both there and at the castle of Amboise, to which last place came Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, and John, Earl of Oxford. Here also, another extraordinary alliance took place, in the marriage of Edward, Prince of Wales, the son of Henry the Sixth, to Lady Anne Neville, the youngest daughter of the Earl of Warwick. A treaty was also entered into between Queen Margaret and the earl; by which it was agreed that the two parties should join against the reigning King, for the restoration of Henry; that the administration of the government, during the minority of Prince Edward, should be intrusted to Warwick and Clarence; and that in default of any issue of the marriage now contracted, the crown should devolve to the duke and his heirs.

As soon as King Edward was apprized of this coalition, he sent over to France a female attendant of the Duchess of Clarence, and much in her confidence. The object of this mission was to draw the duke off from his present connexion, by representing how injurious it was to his own interest, and that of his family. The arguments of the emissary succeeded; and the duke bound himself solemnly to forsake Warwick on the first favourable opportunity. While this negociation was going on, the earl opened a different one with his brother Montacute, who stood high in the counsels of Edward, and was intrusted by him with a knowledge of all his designs. Notwithstanding this, Montacute pledged himself to support the cause of Warwick as soon as he took the field. Thus assured, the earl, with a small force, landed

at Dartmouth on the 13th of September, and, without delay, began his march into the interior; gathering strength at every step, so that in a few days he found himself at the head of sixty thousand men.

Edward was then in the north, but, on hearing of this descent, he retraced his steps, and, relying on the fidelity of Clarence, came in view of the Lancastrian army near Nottingham. Here he encamped, with the intention of giving battle in the morning; but, while reposing in his tent, he was suddenly roused with the shout of "Henry and Lancaster!" raised by the division of Montacute. Alarmed by this defection, which soon spread into other quarters, Edward fled with all speed, and got to Lynn, where he embarked for Flanders.

Clarence, having thus been prevented from fulfilling his promise, appeared more than ever zealous for the cause in which he had engaged. The army now proceeded to London, where Henry was immediately released, and, a new Parliament being called, Edward was attainted, and the line of succession restored to Henry the Sixth; but, on failure of his male issue, the crown was to go to the Duke of Clarence, and his descendants for ever. The duke was further rewarded with the lands of the Duchy of York, and associated with the Earl of Warwick in the Regency of the kingdom during the minority of the Prince of Wales.

Henry, therefore, had now only the semblance of a crown; and, though released from the Tower, it was only an exchange of one prison for another. Meanwhile, Edward was not idle. Aided by the Duke of Burgundy, he landed with a small force at Ravenspur, on the 14th of March, 1471; but, at York, he was compelled to take an oath before the altar, that he had no

other design than that of recovering his family estates. Upon this declaration, he was suffered to proceed to London, which he entered without resistance. Warwick at this time lay encamped at Leicester, waiting to be joined by Montacute and Clarence, whose dilatory proceedings excited suspicion of their sincerity.

A junction, however, was effected; and the three chiefs, on the 12th of April, being Good-Friday, encamped at Barnet. In the night, the Duke of Clarence, with twelve thousand men, stole off, and joined the army of his brother; which treachery, though it weakened the power, did not alter the resolution of Warwick, nor would he condescend on the following day to receive any overtures from his faithless son-in-law, or the King, his brother.

As soon as it was light on Easter day, the Earl began the battle, which raged, with unabated fury on both sides, for six hours. Victory hung in suspense, till one division of the Lancastrians fell upon another in mistake, and thereby threw the whole army into confusion. Warwick, in the desperate effort to recover the advantage which he had lost, was slain, with his brother Montacute; and then a general rout ensued.

Queen Margaret and her son landed at Weymouth on the very day of the battle. Notwithstanding which, she was led by her evil genius to advance as far as Tewkesbury, where, on the 9th of May, after an obstinate contest, she was made prisoner; and though the Prince escaped, he was soon betrayed into the hands of the victor. Edward at first affected to treat the young captive kindly, but quickly altered his behaviour, and brutally struck him on the face with his gauntlet. Clarence, Gloucester, and some others, taking this for a signal, hurried the Prince into another room, where they

butchered him with their poniards ; though, according to other accounts, the deed was perpetrated in the presence of the King.

What rendered this foul act most atrocious on the part of Edward, was, its being done in direct violation of his own proclamation, which ran thus, "that whosoever should bring forth Prince Edward, alive or dead, should have an annuity of one hundred pounds, and the Prince's life to be saved, if he were brought forth alive." But base as Edward was, his guilt fell short in this instance of the turpitude of Clarence, who was not only nearly allied to the unfortunate Prince, but his sworn guardian, and bound by the solemn obligation of an oath to render him fealty and protection.

But the murder did not go unrequited. Some time after, Gloucester, allured by the wealth of the widow of the Prince of Wales, endeavoured to get possession of that and her person by marriage. Clarence, from a motive equally sordid, opposed him ; and the lady, naturally enough, refused her hand to the murderer of her first husband. She sought refuge in the sanctuary of St. Martin, Westminster ; from whence she was taken, disguised as a cook-maid. Upon this, an appeal was made to the King, who decreed, that the lady should become, with or without her will, the wife of Richard ; and that the largest part of her portion of the Warwick estate should go to Clarence ; while the mother of the heiresses, by whom most of the property came, was left destitute.

On the 14th of December, 1476, the Duchess of Clarence died in child-bed, and was buried in the abbey of Tewkesbury. The funereal rites had not long been solemnized, when the widowed Duke made overtures of

marriage to the young heiress of Burgundy, whose mother, though sister to Clarence, encouraged the proposals. King Edward, on the other hand, supported the suit of the Earl of Rivers, brother to the Queen; and this difference being fomented by the artful contrivance of the Duke of Gloucester, accelerated the ruin of Clarence. The confederates began their operations with bringing one of the Duke's dependants to the gallows, on the most frivolous charge of seditious expressions. Clarence resented this act with becoming spirit, and reproached the King, as guilty of cruelty and ingratitude. Edward had now a plea to proceed. He called a council of his sycophants; to whom he made such a report, that, without hesitation, the Duke was committed to the Tower, never to come out, except to undergo a mock trial, and receive judgment.

He appeared at the bar of the House of Lords, and there the King, in defiance of all honour and decency, stood forward in person as his accuser. Against such an advocate, no one that regarded his own life could plead. The articles of attainder were many, but all of them weak and ridiculous. One of them charged Clarence with sorcery, and practising necromancy, to destroy the life of his brother. Absurd as all this was, it found credence from willing hearers, or, at least, such as dared not act otherwise than condemn one whose death was predetermined.

On the 11th of March, 1478, the sentence was carried into execution, but so privately, within the walls of the Tower, that the manner of it remains a mystery to this day. That it was not by the ordinary mode of decapitation is certain, for the body was exposed to public view previous to its interment at Tewkesbury. Common

report, which the chronicles have nearly all followed, states, that the duke, at his own desire, was suffocated in a butt of Malmsey wine, of which liquor he was extremely fond.

Thus perished in the prime of life, for he had not yet reached his twenty-ninth year, George Plantagenet, the "false, fleeting, perfidious Clarence."

He left by his duchess two children, full as unfortunate as himself. Edward the eldest, in right of his grandfather, became Earl of Warwick, and was put to death by Henry the Seventh, on account of his descent from the house of York. Margaret, his sister, married Richard de la Pole, and was created Countess of Salisbury by Henry the Eighth, who, however, caused her to be attainted and beheaded, either out of revenge at the conduct of her son, the famous Cardinal Pole, in opposing his divorce; or, from a jealousy of any pretensions she might set up to the throne, as the last of the line of Plantagenet.—So just is the language which Shakspeare makes Clarence utter immediately before his murder in the Tower :

Princes have but their titles for their glories,
An outward honour for an inward toil :
And for unfelt imaginations,
They often feel a world of restless cares :
So that, between their titles and low name,
There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1789 to 1791.

THE advancement of Prince William-Henry to the peerage rendered an establishment indispensable. To support the dignity, therefore, Parliament granted an income of twelve thousand a year; to which was added by the King, an unlimited table for his Royal Highness and his household, besides apartments lighted and warmed, under the management of the board of Green-cloth, and furnished and kept in repair by the Lord Chamberlain's office. The Duke also obtained, for his country residence, the Lodge in Richmond Park; with an order that it should be furnished, and kept up in the same manner as his house in St. James's Palace.

But his Royal Highness had scarcely taken possession of Clarence Lodge at Richmond, when a fire broke out, which did considerable damage before it was extinguished; and, what was worse, the Duke had to repair and furnish it at his own expense.

Much as it was to be lamented that the peace of the Royal Family should have suffered after the King's recovery, the public were pleased at seeing the three elder Princes living on terms of perfect union and mutual affection. An instance of this appeared at the old theatre of Drury Lane, on the 13th of October, 1789, when the

Prince of Wales, and his two brothers, sat in the same box. The play was the "Tempest," as altered by Dryden and Davenant; and it was got up in a showy style, with the introduction of new characters, spirits, ingenious machinery, and very splendid scenes.

The late Countess of Derby, then the fascinating Miss Farren, played to admiration the part of Dorinda; and, after the performance, she delivered, with equal effect, an epilogue, written for the occasion, by General Burgoyne. The charming actress, taking the magic wand of Prospero in her hand, touched upon the prevailing follies of the fashionable race of *petits-maitres*, and then, pointing to where the Princes sat, spoke these lines with exquisite feeling and emphatic expression:—

" But now, to shift the scene from men bewitch'd,
To one, with Britain's genuine sons enrich'd;
In laws, in arms, their country's strength and pride,
And chosen patterns for the world beside.
High o'er the crowd, inform'd with patriot fire,
Pure as the virtues that endear his Sire!
See one who leads, as mutual trials prove,
A band of brothers to a people's love:
One who in station scorns to found control,
But gains pre-eminence by worth of soul.
These are the honours that, on reason's plan,
Adorn the Prince, and vindicate the man;
While gayer passions, warm'd at nature's breast,
Play o'er his youth—the feathers of his crest."

But, however flattering might be the praises of authors, and the plaudits of theatrical audiences, the public press took another turn, and spoke in a different language

concerning the royal band. The daily prints teemed with abuse of the Prince of Wales, and both his brothers, who were characterized as confederating with a set of political profligates, against their august Parent, and demeaning themselves by other connexions of the most worthless description, in consequence of which it was found necessary to expel them from the court. The "Times" newspaper was the principal vehicle of these libellous attacks; and, accordingly, three prosecutions were instituted, by indictment, against John Walter, the printer and publisher. The first, which was a libel on the Duke of York, the Court of King's Bench sentenced the publisher to pay a fine of fifty pounds, to be imprisoned one year in Newgate, to stand one hour in the pillory at Charing Cross, and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years, himself in five hundred pounds, and two sureties, in one hundred pounds each. In the following term, the publisher of the "Times" was again brought up, to receive judgment for two other libels—one upon the Prince of Wales and Duke of York, in conjunction; the other, upon the Duke of Clarence, separately; who was directly charged with a breach of naval discipline, in quitting the station to which he had been appointed, without permission of the board of Admiralty, or of the commanding officer whose orders he was bound to obey. For the first of these alleged libels, Mr. Walter was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, and to endure an additional year's imprisonment in Newgate. For the second, he was only adjudged to pay a fine of one hundred pounds. These legal proceedings gave great offence, especially as they originated with a party that professed an extraordinary zeal for the freedom of the press.

On the 14th of January, 1790, the peace of the Royal Family was further disturbed by the unexpected arrival of Prince Edward, at Nero's hotel, in King Street, St. James's Square, from Geneva. His Royal Highness had been longer abroad for his education than he thought was consistent; and, finding that all his complaints were disregarded, he broke through all restraint, and in the depth of winter set out for England. It was early in the morning when he reached the hotel, from whence he immediately despatched a messenger with a note to his brother at Carlton House. The Prince was in bed, but got up directly, hastened to the hotel, and returned with his brother to Carlton House to breakfast. A consultation was then held with the Duke of York, who went to the Queen's Palace to mediate for the truant Prince. But all his intercession was in vain. An act of disobedience could not be passed over; and the Prince was sent off, a few days after, to join his regiment at Gibraltar.

At this time England was visited by a royal personage of a very different character. This was Philip, Duke of Orleans, who had twice before dazzled the sphere of fashion here by the splendour of his equipage, and the extravagance of his conduct. With the Prince of Wales, he had, at his first visit in 1783, when duke de Chartres, contracted a close acquaintance; and, on his fresh arrival, that intimacy was renewed, though it did not long continue.

What might be the purport of his present visit, could only be surmised; and the circumstances attending it were so remarkable, that conjecture was strained to discover the object. The revolution, of which he was certainly the prime mover, and for a time continued, by his

immense wealth, to be the main-spring, was now gathering fast to a head.

While, therefore, many thought that pleasure only brought this profligate prince hither, others were inclined to suspect there must be something of a more serious nature at the bottom, and that, too, connected with the portentous movements then just shewing their frightful power and tendency. Previous to his departure from Paris, the duke presented the National Assembly with two millions and a half of livres, the supposed fourth part of his revenue; for which he received the thanks of that body. Two years before this, a negotiation was carried on between the duke of Orleans and the Prince of Wales, for a loan to be advanced by the former, on a bond somewhat in the nature of a *post obit*, repayable at the death of the king. The whole business was conducted very privately; but to what extent remains a secret to this hour. That it would have proceeded further, there can be little doubt; and that the consequences would have been extremely dangerous, is morally certain. Fortunately, the business came to the knowledge of Calonne, the expatriated French minister, and by him the affair was communicated to the Duke of Portland, who marred the scheme by threatening exposure. There is too much reason to believe that the present mission of the duke had a covert design to renew the former treaty, or to offer to the Prince of Wales such assistance as would, while it relieved him from his embarrassments, have made him dependent upon France. Here again the good genius of his Royal Highness interposed, in the person of Lord Thurlow, who plainly told the Prince, that any connexion with Orleans would be his ruin. This had its effect: and the duke, after lingering here some weeks,

returned, to complete what he had threatened, the destruction of Louis the Sixteenth and Marie Antoinette, at the risk of his own fortune and life.

The behaviour of this disgrace to human kind, at his trial and execution, surprised all who knew his previous history. When Duke de Chartres, he served in the French marine, under the Count d'Orvilliers, and was present at the action fought off Ushant, between that commander and Admiral Keppel. But in the early part of the engagement, the royal duke was lost; nor could it be ascertained whether he was alive or dead, till the fleet got into Brest, and then he came up from his hiding-place.

In one of his visits to England, the garrulous coxcomb rattled away, at the table of the Prince of Wales, in such a strain of vanity, that every body was disgusted; but no one ventured to oppose his volubility, till the discourse took a turn to sea-engagements. This also was a fine subject, upon which the Frenchman was authorized to talk, "for," said he, "you all know I have seen service." Our naval Prince archly observed, "Then, if you have seen service, it must have been in the dark."

Bertrand de Moleville, who knew Philip well, and has drawn his character in strong colours, relates the following anecdote of him:

"The cowardice which was inherent in the Duke of Orleans made him not only unfit to direct an extensive conspiracy, but to maintain the dignity and respectability of a gentleman!" A few days after his return from England, in 1790, being in the queen's apartments, M. de Goguelas took him by the shoulders, and, twirling him violently round upon his heels, said, in a very loud voice, "Ah! you here, you scoundrel! how dare you

appear in this place?" The duke bore this indignity without seeking any satisfaction, alleging that, as a prince of the blood, he was not bound to engage in a personal quarrel with a person of inferior station.

While on this worthless subject, it may not be amiss to notice another instance of the ingenuity of some writers in reviving stale anecdotes, and ascribing to personages of one age, what truly belongs to those of a former period. The compiler of the memoir of George the Fourth says, that Orleans when here, lived on terms of great intimacy with the Duke of Queensberry, which intimacy produced a *bon-mot* by the Prince of Wales. A sufficient knowledge of the French language was not among the attainments of the Duke of Queensberry, who yet valued himself on that qualification; and happening to speak, before the Prince, of his being on terms of friendship with the Duke of Orleans—"I understood," says the Prince, "that, on the contrary, you never agree." "Your Royal Highness is misinformed," replied the duke, "we have never had the slightest difference." "That is strange," rejoined the Prince, "for they say you never speak to him without giving him bad language."

Now this story, good or bad, belongs to Lord Chesterfield; who, when the King of Denmark was in England, said to Sir Thomas Robinson, then a favourite with the little monarch, that he was sorry to find he and his royal friend had differed. "You are mistaken, I assure you," replied the baronet: "we are upon the best possible terms." "I am glad of it," said the witty earl, "but I heard that much bad language passed between you." The Danish king could not speak English to be understood, and his admirer was almost as ignorant of French.

Orleans, now self-degraded to the revolutionary name of Egalité, when he was condemned, in November, 1793, to the scaffold, by men who were only one degree less infamous than himself, heard the sentence with *sang froid*, and, at his return to prison, ordered a dinner, of which he ate heartily, and, on being summoned to the guillotine, desired leave to drink a glass of wine with the gaoler. This was politely acceded to—after which he requested the honour of paying the same mark of respect to the under-turnkeys—which being also granted, Philip jumped into the cart, and, on reaching the place of execution, laid his head on the block, and perished amid the execrations of the multitude that he had corrupted, and by whom he had been so lately worshipped.

While the attention of the British public was fixed upon the perturbed state of things in France, the alarm of war was suddenly raised by a message from the King to parliament, containing information of the capture of two trading vessels, belonging to his majesty's subjects, on the north-west coast of America, by a Spanish officer; and of the direct claim set up by the court of Madrid to the exclusive sovereignty, navigation, and commerce of the seas in that part of the world. As no reparation had been made for the injury already sustained, and as the Spaniards were fitting out armaments to support their pretended rights, his Majesty said that he had judged it indispensably necessary to give orders to make such preparations as might enable him to act with vigour and effect in support of the honour of his crown, and the interests of his people.

This dispute was occasioned by the formation of a small commercial settlement at Nootka Sound, on the

coast of California; for the liberty of which, an agreement had been regularly made with the native chiefs of the district, and to whom a price was paid for the land on which the establishment was erected.

In the summer of 1789, two vessels belonging to the settlers were seized, in the bay of Nootka, by the commander of a Spanish frigate, who made the crews prisoners, took possession of the land on which the buildings stood, pulled down the British flag, and hoisted that of Spain in its room, accompanying the act with a declaration, that all the coasts and territories, from Cape Horn to the sixtieth degree of north latitude, on that side of the American continent, belonged to his Catholic majesty.

As soon as the British government obtained certain information of these aggressions and pretensions, no time was lost in demanding satisfaction of the court of Madrid. This, however, was evaded, and every artifice was used to prolong the negotiation, for the obvious purpose of gaining time to support the obsolete rights of Spain, founded upon a papal grant in the fifteenth century.

When the royal message came under consideration on the sixth of May, the address moved by Mr. Pitt, approving the measure proposed as essential to the glory and interests of the country, was carried without one dissenting voice.

The language of Mr. Fox on this occasion was remarkably energetic. The point with Spain, "he observed," was no longer the trivial one of the value of the ships seized, but a decision on her rights in Spanish America. Spain had always advanced her obsolete rights, when she wished to quarrel with this country:—we had now

the opportunity, and ought to embrace it, of putting an end to the assertion of those rights for ever."

The most active exertions were now made, to prepare the channel fleet for sea, under the command of Admiral Barrington, whose flag-captain was Sir John Jervis. The Duke of Clarence, being appointed to the *Valiant*, of seventy-four guns, immediately made all the interest he could, to bring his friend Nelson out of the private station in which he lay; but his efforts, though well supported by Lord Hood, were unavailing. Nelson was then residing at his father's parsonage in Norfolk, from whence, on the 24th of June, he wrote to His Royal Highness the following letter:—

"SIR,

My not being appointed to a ship is so very mortifying, that I cannot find words to express what I feel on this occasion: and when I reflect on your Royal Highness's condescension, in mentioning me to Lord Chatham, I am the more hurt and surprised. Sure I am, that I have ever been a zealous and faithful servant, and have never intentionally committed any errors; especially as, until very lately, I have been honoured by the notice of the Admiralty."

As it happened, however, the disappointment felt by this great man was of trifling duration; for the Spanish ministers, finding our court resolute, the parliament united, and the people ardent, began to lower their tone, and to manifest a conciliatory disposition. The negotiation therefore soon assumed an amicable character, and in August the dispute was adjusted by a convention, in which Spain agreed to restore the settlement at Nootka, (with reparation for the injury sustained,) and to a free

navigation and fishery in the Pacific ocean and South seas by British subjects ; with this proviso, that, for the prevention of smuggling, they should not come within ten leagues of the coasts belonging to Spain. Upon this, the fleet was disbanded ; and Lord Howe, before he struck his flag, sent the following memorandum to the commanding officer of every ship, to be read publicly :—

“ The Charlotte, November 11, 1790.

THE Commander-in-Chief desires, previous to the separation of the fleet, to make his public acknowledgments to the admirals, captains, and other officers, for the attention they have given to promote a degree of order and correctness in the conduct of the service, which he has never seen surpassed.

“ And he is, at the same time, to give testimony to the highly meritorious behaviour of the inferior orders of seamen, which does no less credit to their national character.”

The Valiant being now paid off, her commander was raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the blue squadron.

At this time, the Honourable William Cornwallis was commander on the India station ; from whence, in a letter, dated “ Diamond Harbour, 13th of August, 1790,” he wrote thus to his old friend Nelson :—

“ Our Royal Duke is, I hear, almost tired of the shore ; but how he will be able to employ himself at sea in time of peace, is not easy to determine. It would, however, be a pity that any of the zeal and fondness he has so evidently shewn for the service should be suffered to abate ; as there is every reason to believe, that, with his ability, he will carry its glory to a greater height than it has yet attained.”

While the Duke of Clarence lay at Spithead, waiting to go to sea with the Channel fleet, he received the

intelligence of the death of his uncle, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland. He had been long troubled with an asthmatic complaint; but the disorder which carried him off was a cancer in the palate and throat. He also, in his youth, was intended for the naval service, and sailed as midshipman under Admiral Barrington. After passing as a lieutenant, he obtained the command of a frigate; and in 1788, he obtained the rank of rear-admiral, but never had any opportunity of distinguishing himself at sea. He travelled much for his health, accompanied by his duchess, who was of the Luttrell family, and had been married to a country gentleman named Horton. She survived her second husband several years, but never had any issue by either. The duke was a pleasant, good-natured man; but volatile, and fond of pleasure. For his intrigue with Lady Grosvenor he was punished in purse, by a verdict to pay thirty thousand pounds. It merits observation, that no divorce took place, owing to the request of George the Third, who was led to believe that, in the event of a separation of the lady from her dishonoured lord, she would become Duchess of Cumberland.

Shortly after this, the duke espoused a commoner of still lower rank, but of purer character; and this produced the Royal Marriage Act, out of which have arisen so many evils.

On the breaking up of the Spanish armament, the Duke of Clarence retired again to a private life; but, soon after, he formed a connexion, over which, were it not for the imperative law of historic verity, prudence would wish to throw a veil. As that, however, is impossible, the biographer must pursue his course steadily, but warily, as one walking on ashes under

which the fire is not extinguished. It is the peculiar fortune of princes to have their actions measured by a different standard of morality from that which is applied to the conduct of other men. Some persons, considering only the advantages which elevated rank affords for the exercise of all the virtues, will make no allowance for the numerous temptations to which that exaltation is exposed. Others again, of a worse spirit, and from want of principle, make it their study to frame apologies for the obliquities of great men, as if their errors were unavoidable, and the necessary result of their condition in life.

Without running into the extravagant notion, that vice loses its odium under any circumstances, it must be granted, that there are some cases in which the failings of princes will admit of indulgence, on account of the peculiarity of the circumstances in which they are placed.

The Royal Marriage Act, for instance, has certainly, in its effects, proved seriously injurious, not only to the happiness of the personages upon whom it was intended to operate, but also to the morals of the people, and the national welfare; for there can be little doubt of the fact, that concubinage and adultery became much more common among the higher ranks, after the passing of that statute, than had been known since the Revolution.

Precluded from following their inclination in a choice so important as that of matrimony, some members of the Royal Family formed associations, which were of so equivocal a nature as to excite some apprehensions respecting the succession. Others, that had nothing ambiguous about them, were, however, made so public,

that many persons, who were far enough from being precise, could not but feel concerned at the pernicious tendency of an example, which set even the ordinary rules of decorum at defiance, and claimed for the circle of royalty a similar privilege from the demands of virtue, as the board of green-cloth possesses against civil arrest.

At the period of which we are writing, the most popular comic actress on the London stage was Mrs. Jordan, who, in her style of performance, figure, and character, might have been called the Nell Gwyn of her day.

She was a native of Ireland; and her maiden name was Bland. At the early age of sixteen, she appeared on the stage in her native country, under the name of Francis; but when she engaged with Tate Wilkinson, the proprietor of the theatre at York, she was announced the in bills as Mrs. Jordan, "for very obvious and pressing reasons," says that manager, in his memoirs.

What those obvious and pressing reasons were, the reader will, perhaps, be at no loss to comprehend. The baptismal name of the lady was Dorothy—but even that also, though without any precedent, she chose to alter into Dora; for what reason, except from caprice, cannot be imagined.

Her first appearance on the London boards was in the comedy of the "Country Girl," at Drury Lane, October 18, 1785. This ordeal proved a complete triumph, and the play was repeated to crowded houses.

But it would be foreign from the tenour of this work to trace the theatrical career of Mrs. Jordan, or even to touch upon any of her performances and engagements,

further than as they relate to the immediate course of our historic narrative.

Previous to her arrival at York, she had accepted the protection, as it is called, of Richard Ford, a lawyer by profession, and a strolling player by necessity. This connexion produced two or three children, who were wholly supported by the talents of the mother; to whose honour, it must be recorded, that she discharged her parental duty with exemplary care and affection.

The personal attractions and vivacious manners of Mrs. Jordan made such an impression upon the naval Duke, that a transfer of the lady from her former friend was soon effected, and she took up her residence at Clarence Lodge.

In this business, the conduct of Ford could only be equalled by that of a being who puts up his wife for sale to the best bidder, with a halter about her neck. Mrs. Jordan, it is true, had no legal claim upon the father of her children; but she had one of a higher nature—and, as Ford had been wholly supported by her labours, he was bound in honour to give her the title she demanded. He refused to make her his lawful wife, and, in consequence, she acceded to the proposals of her royal admirer. It should seem, therefore, that, at this time, Mrs. Jordan was ignorant of the infamous bargain Ford had already made for the relinquishment of her person. But, whether she was or not, the whole transaction exhibits a lamentable deficiency of moral principle and honourable feeling. Ford, in addition to other considerations, obtained a share in Drury Lane Theatre; and, what was worse, on the establishment of the police magistracy, he was thought a fit person to be appointed one of the guardians of the public morals, at

the office in Shadwell, from whence he was removed to the presidency at Bow Street. On the latter promotion, he became Sir Richard Ford.

With this mirror of magistracy and knighthood, we have done; and must now attend upon the lady, by whose charms, without any merit of his own, he gained a fortune and a title.

The new situation of Mrs. Jordan became a matter of notoriety; nor could it well be otherwise, when she herself made an ostentatious display of the pride of conquest. So far was this vanity carried, that on the 22d of March, 1790, she chose for her benefit the "Humorous Lieutenant," of Fletcher, evidently because the princely connexion of Celia, the first character of the piece, and which she herself played, resembled her own. But, to make the comparison fit more exactly, and to compel the audience, as it were, to apply the fictitious representation to existing circumstances, Mrs. Jordan had the boldness to speak the following epilogue, which was written purposely for her by the facetious Henry Bunbury.

"How strange! methinks I hear a critic say,
 What *SHE*, the serious heroine of a play!
 The manager his want of sense evinces!
 To pitch on *hoydens* for the love of *PRINCES*;
 To trick out *chambermaids* in awkward pomp;
 Horrid! to make a *PRINCESS* of a *romp*.
 "Depend upon 't," replies indulgent John,
 "Some d—d good-natured friend has set her on:"
 "Poh!" says old Surly, "I shall now expect
 "To see Jack Pudding treated with respect,
 "Cobblers in curricles alarm the Strand,
 "Or my Lord Chancellor drive six-in-hand."

“ But, I ’ve a precedent—can quote the book—
 “ Czar Peter made an empress of a *cook*.”
 There—now you ’re dumb, Sir, nothing left to say ;—
 Why, changing is the fashion of the day—
 Far wilder changes Paris can display.
 There, Monsieur Bowkit leaves, ha ! ha ! the dance,
 To read Ma’amselle a lecture on *finance*.
 The nation’s debts, each hairdresser can scan ’em,
 And Friz in *WAYS* and *MEANS* with hard pomatum :
 Beaux lay down lap-dogs, to take up the pen,
 And patriot Misses urge the *rights of men*.
 Squat o’er their coals, sage fishwomen debate,
 Dealing at once in politics and skate,
 And shrewdly mixing to each taste, the dish,
 With fresh and stale—*philosophy* and *fish*.
 If such odd changes you can gravely see,
 Why not allow a transient change in me ?
 The charms that mirth despotic makes to-night,
 In grief may shine more eminently bright,
 More killing still the gaudy Miss be seen,
 Black as a crow, all *love and bombasin*.
 Say, my fair friends, what change has more success,
 In catching lovers, than a change of *dress* ?
 Caps, hats, and bonnets, fashion’s pack of hounds,
 Each in its turn the trembling wretch surrounds ;
 One day you wound him with a civic crown ;
 Another, with a tucker knock him down ;
 In cruel *pink*, to-night your game pursue—
 To-morrow, pummel him in black and blue.
 Now in a *turque*, now *en chemise*, assail him,
 Till the poor devil flounders, and you nail him.
 If I my *frock* have chang’d with some success
 And gain’d admirers in this regal dress ;
 If faithful Celia should your favour prove ;
 If, pleas’d, you listen to her constant love ;

If, tir'd with laugh, a sigh of pity ease you,
I'll be a very weather-cock, to please you ;
The grave, the gay, alternately pursue,
Fix'd but in this—my gratitude to you."

How any thing so offensive to good manners as this, could have been heard throughout by a decent audience, is unaccountable ; yet it does not appear that the epilogue was interrupted by a single expression of disapprobation.

Before the end of the year, however, some alteration took place in the public opinion, respecting the conduct of Mrs. Jordan. The daily papers teemed with paragraphs to her disadvantage, especially during her necessary confinement ; the cause of which could not be concealed. Various stories were circulated about the transfer of the lady's person from one protector to another ; and of her little regard to feeling in the whole business. All this indicated a storm—which at length burst forth.

Richard Cœur de Lion was announced for performance at the little theatre in the Haymarket ; the character of Matilda to be played by Mrs. Jordan. When the time came, an apology was made for her non-appearance, on the ground of indisposition. Though the plea was valid, the audience chose to be dissatisfied ; and the journals echoed the language of complaint against the lady, by charging her with want of respect and gratitude to the public, from whom she had derived that brilliant support, which she now abused by the neglect of her professional duty. Some of these paragraphs went farther, and accused the object of them with having, for the sake of a princely connexion, injured the children she previously had ; and there were not wanting

insinuations to the disparagement of the royal protector of the lady, as having committed a wilful outrage upon the national character, by setting up, in his own conduct, a scandalous example for the imitation of others.

The times, it was said, required of the great, and especially of those who were most prominent by their birth and station, before the observing world, an outward attention, at least, to the conservatory laws of social order. How to remove the impression already made by these attacks, was a question of equal importance and difficulty. With respect to one of the parties, silence appeared to be the only remedy; but, as the other could not maintain the professional reputation already acquired, without some explanation and apology, the following letter was drawn up, and addressed to the several editors, to appear in the public prints :—

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE submitted in silence to the unprovoked and unmanly abuse, which, for some time past, has been directed against me; because it has related to subjects about which the public could not be interested: but to an attack upon my conduct in my profession, and the charge of want of gratitude and respect to the public, I think it my duty to reply.

“ Nothing can be more cruel and unfounded than the insinuation, that I absented myself from the Theatre on Saturday last, from any other cause than real inability, from illness, to sustain my part in the entertainment. I have ever been ready and proud to exert myself to the utmost of my strength, to fulfil my engagements with the Theatre, and to manifest my respect for the audience; and no person can be more grateful for the indulgence and applause with which I have been constantly honoured.

“ I would not obtrude upon the public an allusion to any thing that does not relate to my profession, in which I may, without presumption, say, I am accountable to them ; but, thus called on, in the present case, there can be no impropriety in my answering those who have so ungenerously attacked me, that if they could drive me from that profession, they would take from me the *only income* I have, or mean to possess ; the whole earnings of which, upon the past, and one half, for the future, I have already settled upon my children. Unjustly and cruelly traduced as I have been upon this subject, I trust that this short declaration will not be deemed impertinent ; and, for the rest, I appeal with confidence to the justice and benevolence of the public.”

“ DOR. JORDAN.”

This appeal to the public did not give general satisfaction, and, on the 10th of December, when Mrs. Jordan appeared in the character of Roxalana, in the “ Sultan,” the applause bestowed upon her performance was mixed with some significant tokens of public displeasure. A disturbance ensued, which was not allayed till the object of it came forward, and, with considerable animation, addressed the audience in the following words :—

“ LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I should conceive myself utterly unworthy of your favour, if the slightest mark of public disapprobation did not affect me very sensibly.

“ Since I have had the honour and the happiness to strive here to please you, it has been my constant endeavour, my unremitting assiduity, to merit your approbation. I beg leave to assure you, upon my honour, that I have never absented myself one minute from the duties of my profession, but from real indisposition. Thus having invariably acted, I do consider myself under the public protection.”

This speech had the desired effect ; and the confusion ceased, amidst shouts of applause.

On this part of the history of Mrs. Jordan, her biographer offers an apology for the lady, and the new connexion into which she had entered.

“A circumstance,” says he, “had occurred, which was now generally known, I mean the declared admiration of a royal duke for this delightful actress, and a wish for her society permanently, on such terms as his peculiar situation alone permitted. He invaded no man’s absolute rights—he did not descend to corrupt or debase. Not considering himself entirely a creature of the state, he had presumed to avow an affection for a woman of the most fascinating description ; and his yet unsullied honour was the pledge, that the fruits, if any, of such an union should be considered most sacredly as his—that he took the duties of a father along with the natural relation. We were now in the ferment of the French revolution ; and it became a crime, in the eyes of no small part of the public, that Mrs. Jordan had listened to a prince. In spite of his services as a naval officer, and the frank, cordial manners, which were not more the characteristics of his profession than of his own nature, the noble seaman was neither well treated by the government, nor did his popularity at all compensate a very niggardly establishment. On a sudden, writers in the daily papers became most anxiously solicitous about Mrs. Jordan’s family, (as if it had not at all times been the precious jewel of her soul.) ‘What, in the new connexion, became of Mrs. Jordan’s family?’ Mr. Ford was elevated by some persons into an injured and deserted man ; they neither knew him, nor his privity to the advances made by the noble suitor. They had

never seen him at the wing of the theatre, and thrown their eyes, as he must have done, to the private boxes. Mrs. Jordan was not a woman to hoodwink herself in any of her actions—she knew the sanctions of law and religion as well as any body, and their value—this implies that she did not view them with indifference. And had Mr. Ford, as she proposed to him, taken one step further, which the Duke could not take, the treaty with the latter would have ended at the moment.”

This defence is ingenious, and perhaps as good a one as the case would admit. In one expression, the writer has been guilty of injustice. The establishment of the Duke was far from being niggardly, nor could the government, with any regard to the public, have proposed a larger one to parliament. The Duke was a young man, unencumbered, and possessing a handsome income as an admiral, besides which, he received thirty thousand pounds on his advancement to the peerage. The apologist for Mrs. Jordan is perfectly correct in his observation on the treatment which she received from Ford; but whether he is equally so in saying, that if the latter had taken the step proposed, the treaty with the Duke would have ended, may well be doubted. The woman who had borne three children, and still lived with the father, could not have any nice notions of morality or religion, in entering into a treaty with another admirer, even though that admirer was a prince of the blood royal. Mrs. Jordan had no temptation here, except what was addressed to her vanity and ambition. She was already in a state of affluence, and her popularity was such that she might shortly have retired from the stage with ample means for the support of herself and children.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1791 TO 1793.

SCARCELY had the differences between Great Britain and Spain been settled, when the public became alarmed by the prospect of a war in another and more formidable quarter. The boundless ambition of the northern Semiramis, at this time, threatened the total extinction of the Ottoman power. In the preceding year, attempts had been made by the British government, in conjunction with other states, to effect a pacification between Russia and Turkey. But all the overtures made by the mediating parties, the Empress Catherine treated with haughty contempt, and evinced, by her conquests on the Black Sea, a determined resolution to become mistress of Constantinople.

To prevent this, and to bring the autocratrix to reason, it was deemed necessary that a strong naval force should be put in motion ; and accordingly, on the 25th of March, 1791, a proclamation was issued for encouraging seamen and landsmen to enter themselves on board of his Majesty's ships of war. Instructions were also sent to those captains and lieutenants who had been employed on the impress service during the preceding armament, to open rendezvous for seamen. These measures were followed by a royal message to Parliament, stating, that as his Majesty's endeavours, in conjunction with his allies, to effect a pacification between Russia and the Porte, had been

ineffectual, he had thought it requisite, in order to add weight to his representations, to augment his naval forces.

The minister, in moving a correspondent address, argued, that we had a direct interest in this war, both in the support of our ally, and in checking the progress of the Russian arms, which had become dangerous to the political system of Europe.

Mr. Pitt observed, that the predominance of Russia would probably effect an alteration in the state of Europe, in other respects disadvantageous to this country, particularly with respect to Poland. We had, he said, a commercial interest in cultivating a trade with Poland, and in preventing Russia from obtaining such a decided command of the articles we wanted, as to give or withhold them at her pleasure. Subsequent events have fully shewn the force of these arguments; notwithstanding which, such a violent opposition was raised in both houses to the address, that the warlike preparations were suspended. Mr. Fox was the leader in this contest with government, and, for the triumph which he obtained, the Empress of Russia complimented him by sending an order to her ambassador, to procure the bust of the "man of the people," that she might place it in her cabinet, between Cicero and Demosthenes. The very next year afterwards, the imperial despot put an end to the nominal independence of Poland, which she dared not to have done, had there been a British squadron in the Baltic. So much for patriotism.

During the short time that this armament continued, though Lord Hood commanded the fleet at Spithead, the Duke of Clarence remained unemployed; perhaps because he had but recently been promoted to the rank of a

flag-officer. It is as likely, however, that the real cause was the publication of the terms for an extraordinary loan, then negotiating at Antwerp for the three elder Princes. The conditions, as mentioned in the Dutch proposals, were as follow:—the sum in exchange-money there to be three million six hundred thousand guilders. The loan to be made for twenty-five years; part to be payable at the end of fifteen years, by a lottery. The bonds and obligations to be for one thousand guilders each. The appendages and revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall and Bishopric of Osnaburg, were to be assigned, in trust, to certain noblemen, said to be the Dukes of Portland and Northumberland; Earl Fitzwilliam, Lords Southampton, Rawdon, and Malmsbury, jointly with Messrs. Erskine and Pigot. Three thousand pounds sterling a year from the revenue of the duchy and bishopric were to be laid out in the three per cents., to serve as a sinking fund. The interest upon the money lent was fixed at five per cent. to commence from the 1st of February, 1791, and to be payable half-yearly.

With whom this goodly scheme for raising the ways and means to pay off royal debts originated, we are not informed, nor is it worth while to inquire. Whoever he might be, neither the crown nor the nation owed him any thanks for this display of his financial genius.

It appeared that the negotiation for the loan had been set on foot some considerable time before it gained publicity. When the King became acquainted with the transaction, his indignation was strongly excited, particularly against the Duke of Clarence, for joining in a measure, to which he was not impelled by necessity. But an immediate stop was put to the business, by the official interposition of Lord Grenville, then foreign

secretary : but, unluckily, much of the money had been received ; the bonds were in circulation among the dealers in such kind of securities ; and in the issue, the holders of them lost both principal and interest.

While this unpleasant affair occasioned disquietude in the Royal Family, and threw another cloud over the three elder sons of George the Third, the three youngest were concluding their studies at the University of Gottingen, in the electoral dominions.

Of the exemplary conduct of these Princes at that celebrated seat of learning, an honourable testimonial was given by an eminent scholar, then a student there, in the following letter, dated the 12th of April, 1791 :—

“ Their Royal Highnesses the Prince Ernest, Augustus, and Adolphus, after a residence of four years, have completed their education, and left the University, to the great regret of all who knew them. They are gone to Hanover, where the former is pursuing his military studies, under the most experienced and distinguished officers, in the light dragoons, and is thought to have made so great a progress, that he is to command a squadron of horse this summer, in the Hanoverian camp. Prince Augustus, whose health has been for some time in a very precarious state, is travelling in the south of France.

“ The affability and engaging manners of these royal students have left a lasting impression upon us all. They conducted themselves the whole time they were here with the greatest decorum, treating their governors and the professors with respect, and their fellow-students with a becoming familiarity.

“ The public lectures they attended were on general history, and the relative state of Europe ; the particular

histories, and political constitutions, of Great Britain and Germany; moral and natural philosophy, natural history, &c.; besides being privately instructed in the ancient and modern languages, mathematics, tactics, riding, fencing, music, and other useful accomplishments. The celebrated Professor Heyne had the direction of their classical studies; Putter and Spittler, who attended the Hanoverian embassy at the election of the Emperor, instructed them in public law and history; and the ingenious Lichtenberg, in mathematics and natural philosophy. The Latin oration delivered by Professor Heyne in the University Church on their departure, in which he mentions their Royal Highnesses as having been patterns of industry and good behaviour, has been translated, and is read throughout Germany with avidity and pleasure."

At the end of the year, the following rather remarkable particulars of one of these Princes, the present Duke of Sussex, were given in a letter from Rome, dated the 1st of December:—

"Prince Augustus, fifth son of his Britannic Majesty, has been received by his Holiness with the most distinguished respect. Yesterday, Cardinal de Bernis informed his Royal Highness, that, by express desire of the holy Father, apartments were ordered to be in readiness for him in the Vatican; and a suit of superb rooms was accordingly prepared. But the Prince politely declined the compliment, alleging the necessity he was under, of making Rome his residence for a very short duration. He received an address on Tuesday from the Dominican friars, congratulating his Royal Highness upon his arrival in Rome. It was accompanied by an elegant Latin oration, pronounced by Father le

Pole, to which the Prince returned a polite answer in the same language. Several other religious orders have also addressed his Royal Highness, each of whom, as their several sentiments dictated, added to their complimentary congratulations, alternate allusions to the political situations of Great Britain and France at this present juncture. His Royal Highness is the first protestant prince who has been offered apartments in the apostolic palace; or who has received, upon arriving at Rome, public congratulations from the clergy."

It must be allowed, that, however extraordinary the politeness of the sovereign Pontiff was, the attention shewn to the heretical Prince by the fathers of the Inquisition was far more extraordinary and unaccountable. Two of the young Prince's uncles had repeatedly visited Rome, and been treated with singular respect by Ganganelli and his successor; but neither of the royal Dukes was favoured with addresses from the religious orders of that city. A few months afterwards, the Prince was married at, or near, Rome, to Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the Earl of Dunmore.

Among the many eccentric characters at this time in England, one of the most remarkable was that heteroclit, the Chevalier, or Madame, D'Eon, whose precise gender perplexed a whole generation, and was even made the subject of legal dispute. This nondescript knight of St. Louis, after commanding a regiment of dragoons, and acting as secretary to the French embassy, lost, under the new order of things, the pension that had been granted by the king.

As soon as the Prince of Wales was informed of the impoverished state to which the Chevalier was reduced by this act of revolutionary economy, he sent D'Eon one

hundred guineas by the hand of Lord Rawdon. The Chevalier, though enjoined to secrecy, not only wrote the following letter of acknowledgment, but had the egregious folly to publish it without permission. As a curiosity, this extraordinary composition perhaps may not be undeserving of a place in the present volume:—

“ SIR,

“ London, March 4, 1791.

“ LORD Rawdon did me the honour to call yesterday on the part of your Royal Highness, to communicate, that, having lately heard that the payment of my pension has been withheld, your Royal Highness was anxious to offer your assistance, and that you begged me to accept a present of one hundred guineas, which were sent, and to mention it by no means to any one, and that, further, if it should be in your Highness’s power to render my stay in England agreeable to me, it should certainly be done.

“ I receive, Sir, with the most respectful gratitude, the gratuity which your Royal Highness had the goodness to send, with a graciousness and sensibility that were equal. By passing through the hands of a lord and general, brave alike in peace and war, it acquired with me an accession to its value.

“ I think, if, with the ridiculous vanity of a French aristocrat, I were to refuse the present, I should ill reply to the delicacy, generosity, and nobleness of your mind, as elevated as your Royal Highness’s birth.

“ I had rather derogate from the feelings of nobility, than those of virtue and gratitude. Those sentiments are too pleasing in my breast, to permit of only secretly indulging in the payment. I dislike all subtilization in matters of acknowledgment. They evaporate in the operation. I, therefore, shall always pride myself upon your favours.

“ When a heart, so princely as yours, bestows—and a virtue, so aged as mine, receives—the tooth of the most envenomed viper will be innocuous.

“ If Horace had lived under the reign of George the Third, instead of that of Augustus, he would not have declaimed his ‘*Virtus laudatur et alget* ;’ but he would assuredly have said of the Prince of Wales,

“ ‘ In teneris qui magna sapit, si passibus æquis,
Procedas, minimo tempora quantus erit !’

“ ‘ Returning, his lyre would to you be address’d,
And to render its raptures, give joy to my breast.’

‘ I am, with the most profound respect and gratitude,

“ LA CHEV. D’EON.”

Not long after this, the same equivocal personage addressed a petition to the National Assembly, setting forth, that although she had worn the dress of a woman for fifteen years, she had never forgotten that she was formerly a soldier ; that, since the Revolution, she felt her military ardour revive, and demanded, instead of her cap and petticoats, her helmet, her sabre, her war-horse, and that rank in the army to which her seniority, her services, and her wounds were entitled ; and, that she now requested permission to raise a legion of volunteers for the service of her country. Unconnected with any party, she had no desire of brandishing her sword in processions in the streets of Paris, and wished for nothing but actual service—war nobly made, and courageously supported. “ In my eager impatience,” adds the chevalier, “ I have sold every thing but my uniform, and the sword I wore in the last war, which I wish again to wear in the present. Of my library, nothing remains but shelves, and the manuscripts of Marshal Vauban, which I have preserved as an offering

to the National Assembly, for the glory of my country, and the instruction of the brave generals employed in her defence. I have been the sport of nature—of fortune—of war and peace—of men and women—of the malice and intrigues of courts. I have passed successively from the state of a girl to that of a boy—from the state of a man to that of a woman. Soon, I hope, with arms in my hands, I shall fly, on the wings of liberty and victory, to fight and die for the nation, the law, and the king.”

Though this gasconade of the would-be Joan d’Arc was received with universal plaudits, the epicene warrior was suffered to remain in poverty, till death came, and demonstrated that D’Eon was a man.

On the 29th of September this year, the marriage of the Duke of York to the Princess Royal of Prussia took place at Berlin ; and on Saturday the 19th of November, the illustrious pair reached town, when the Duke of Clarence carried the agreeable intelligence of their arrival, to the King and Queen at Buckingham House.

On Wednesday, the 23d, the ceremony of re-marriage, according to the rites of the Church of England, and in pursuance of the act of parliament, was performed at the Queen’s Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. The certificate of the marriage was signed by their Majesties, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Clarence, and the Lord Chancellor.

About this time, a Society was formed, under the patronage of the Duke of Clarence, having for its object the improvement of naval architecture.

In their account of the institution, the managers said, “The Society purpose to encourage every useful invention and discovery, as far as shall be in their power, both by honorary and pecuniary rewards. They have

in view particularly to improve the theories of floating bodies, and the resistance of fluids; to procure draughts and models of different vessels, together with calculations of their capacity, centre of gravity, tonnage, &c.; to make observations and experiments themselves; and to point out such observations and experiments as appear best calculated to further their designs, and most deserving those premiums which the Society can bestow.

“But, though the improvement of naval architecture in all its branches, be certainly the principal object of this institution, yet, the Society do not by any means intend to confine themselves merely to the form and structure of vessels. Every subordinate and collateral pursuit will claim a share of the attention of the Society, in proportion to its merits; and whatever may have any tendency to render navigation more safe, salutary, and even pleasant, will not be neglected.

“It is with confidence that they repeat their solicitations for assistance, to enable them to extend their views—to make experiments on a large scale—to assist young persons in the attainment of this most useful art, and even to institute an academy for the regular study, not only of the art itself, but of those sciences which ought to form the basis of it.

“But the Society do not merely call upon the public for pecuniary assistance; in particular, they solicit the officers of the royal navy and merchants’ services to examine carefully the hints, proposals, and plans which may at any time be laid before this Society; and to suggest any improvements that may occur, however minute they may appear to them; they being confessedly the best judges of the advantages to be derived from the facility of manœuvring ships, of the comparative excel-

lence between one vessel and another in sailing, and all other desirable properties.”

This institution originated with Mr. John Sewell, a bookseller in Cornhill, who was led by mere accident to take such notice of the actual state of the naval architecture of this country, as naturally occurred to a man of plain understanding, zealous for the national honour and interest, and willing to bestow a portion of that time for the public good, which men of a less ardent disposition would have devoted to their own private advantage.

Mr. Sewell's attention to the subject of naval architecture was excited by having learned the opinion of some private shipwrights, who, in a debate on the failure of one of our naval engagements, declared that such would ever be the case, while the construction of vessels of war was left to precedent, and not studied as a science. It was further observed, that there had not been one improvement in our navy but what was derived from the French, who had naval schools for the study of that valuable branch of knowledge.

Among the first supporters of the plan were, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Howe, Earl Spencer, Lord Rawdon, and Sir John Borlase Warren; but, after going on some time, it was found inefficient for the purpose, unless made a national concern. In the naval administration of Lord Spencer, therefore, this was accomplished by the establishment of a Board of Naval Architecture, under the direction of the Admiralty.

In the parliamentary session of 1792, the important subject of the African slave-trade occupied much of the time of both houses. On the 2d of April, Mr. Wilberforce brought forward certain resolutions for the

immediate abolition of the trade; which were passed, with the substitution of the word "gradual," instead of immediate, upon the motion of Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville.

On the 3d of May, the resolutions of the lower house were brought before the upper by the Duke of Leeds; when Lord Grenville announced his intention to move, that their lordships should agree with the Commons in their resolutions. Upon this, there arose a desultory conversation, as to the proper mode of proceeding to be adopted.

The Duke of Clarence declared, he had come down to the house without a single idea that the slave business would be brought forward on that day; therefore he had the more need of the indulgence of their lordships, as the want of being prepared was to be added to the deficiencies he naturally must experience, from not being in the habit of public speaking; yet he could not reconcile it to himself to be silent on this momentous occasion. By having been stationed for some time in the West Indies, he had been necessarily an eye-witness of the treatment of the negro slaves, and therefore could speak from local knowledge; and, from all he had seen, his Royal Highness declared, that, in his conscience, he verily believed the greatest hardship of their slavery was in the *word*. As, however, the business was not now directly before the house, his Royal Highness observed, he should avoid entering into a particular discussion of the question at large, but which he should be very ready to do with any noble lord, when that was the case.

Considering the African trade in every point of view, as of the highest magnitude to the welfare and prosperity of

this kingdom, the duke said, its abolition should ever meet with his most serious and unqualified opposition ; and, that it was of this magnitude, his Royal Highness said, he could assure their lordships, for, to his knowledge, there were at that moment foreign agents waiting the decision of Parliament, and ready to engage all the vessels that would be thrown out of employ, should the house agree to those resolutions, which would, in effect, tend to its abolition ; but which, the love he bore to his country made him sincerely wish he should never live to see.

On the 8th, Lord Stormont moved, “ that the house do resolve itself into a committee, to examine into the trade between this country and Africa, and between Africa and our West India Islands ; and to inquire into the cultivation of sugar in our islands.”

Lord Grenville, for the purpose of coming to a speedy decision, proposed an amendment, for an open committee above stairs. To this, the Duke of Clarence offered several strong objections, and contended for a full inquiry, and the hearing of counsel, at their lordships’ bar.

The Chancellor was of the same opinion, and the original motion was carried. Thus stood that great question for the present year.

On the 23d of the same month, the nation lost one of its brightest ornaments, in the death of the veteran Rodney, at the age of seventy-four ; having been in the navy sixty-two years, and upwards of half a century in commission. Upon a motion in the house of Lords, to bestow some memorial in honour of this gallant commander, the Duke of Clarence rose, and paid the following feeling tribute of respect to his departed friend :—

“ I cannot give a silent vote on the present occasion. The services of the late Lord Rodney are so great, that it did infinite honour to his Majesty’s ministers to pay every respect to his memory. Such services merited the highest rewards from his country, and I am happy to bear this public testimony to their value and importance. For myself, I have particular reason to endeavour to do justice to the singular merits of my deceased friend, who, unhappily for this country, is no more ; but I hope the house will indulge me a few moments, while I briefly recall to their recollection the noble services his lordship had rendered, which I am certain they never can forget.

“ I must first remind their lordships, that Lord Rodney had taken Martinique, Grenada, &c. &c. from the French in the war before the last. In the last war, in going out to Gibraltar, he had taken a Spanish admiral, with a valuable convoy. Without this most seasonable and fortunate capture, Gibraltar was so short of provisions, that the most serious consequences were to be apprehended. He had abundantly supplied the garrison, and happily relieved it. The house will recollect that Lord Rodney had taken the island of St. Eustatius, and a Dutch convoy ; but the most glorious period of his life was the 12th of April, 1782, which will ever be held as a most sacred epoch in this country. The enemies of England were vain enough to think they could crush her for ever ; but the event of that day clearly proved, that a British fleet of nearly equal force, when opposed to a French fleet, will be sure to beat them. The victory of the 12th of April was the more honourable to Lord Rodney, as it was obtained over De Grasse, one of the best and bravest admirals that

France ever produced. Had it been in the power of valour to have saved a brave man from disgrace and misfortune, it never would have been the lot of De Grasse to have been disgraced and banished from the French court—a conduct, however,” his Royal Highness emphatically observed, “that had too often prevailed in courts !

“It was that victory which decided the fate of the war, and taught our particular enemy, France, that, however for a moment we might be depressed, we arose, after a seeming defeat, with renovated strength and courage.

“I trust,” concluded the royal speaker, “this house will pardon my expatiating on the virtues and great professional merits of my departed friend, for which myself and every officer of the British navy entertain the highest respect and veneration.”

Lord Rodney having left a son, brought up under himself, but who was unaccountably neglected by Government, the Duke of Clarence strove hard to get him promoted. All his endeavours, however, proved ineffectual, till Nelson obtained the command in the Mediterranean, when the Duke recommended Mr. Rodney to a protection, which was now become far more powerful than his own.

The reply was, “I agree with your Royal Highness most entirely, that the son of a Rodney ought to be the protégé of every person in the kingdom, and particularly of the sea officers. Had I known that there had been this claimant, some of my own lieutenants must have given way to such a name, and he should have been placed in the Victory. The whole fleet is full, and I have twenty on my list ; but whatever numbers I have, the name of Rodney must cut many of them out.”

In the course of the same session, a bill was brought into Parliament by ministers, for increasing and preserving the timber in the New Forest, and for the sale of rents and enfranchisements of copyhold tenements in the same. The noble mover, Lord Grenville, observed, that the great decay of timber for the royal navy made such a bill necessary, and that its principle was recommended by the Commissioners of the Land Revenue of the Crown.

The proposition, however, was strongly contested, particularly by the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, who opposed it with many objections—among which, he considered the alienating of the landed property from the crown, was not the least. He held, that the crown should always possess a landed interest in the country; and that, if the estates attached to it could be so improved as to render it independent of the necessity of applying to Parliament for support, it would be more honourable and beneficial to both; and, that such was the constitutional principle of the country, he thought was sufficiently evident in the determination of making forfeited lands fall to the crown; and therefore he could not but consider every suggestion to take away part of that property, as infringing upon, and depriving the crown of, its just right.

In a future stage of the bill, the Chancellor repeated his objections to it; and he further added, that the royal assent ought to have been given to it in due form.

The Duke of Montrose declared that the previous assent of the King could not be given in a committee.

This called up the Duke of Clarence, who declared himself an advocate for the interests of the crown, as stated by the Lord Chancellor; and, in answer to what

had fallen from the Duke of Montrose, his Royal Highness said, that he was lately on a committee where his Majesty's assent was formally given, as being indispensably necessary. He further observed, that he should ever support the prerogative of the crown, and trusted that his declaration would be credited.

Lord Grenville, in consequence of this opposition, and the petition presented against the measure by several persons interested in the New Forest, postponed the bill till the next session.

The distinguished part thus taken by his Royal Highness in the senate, drew from his friend Nelson an epistle, not merely complimentary, but the warm effusion of generous sentiment and congenial feeling. To this letter which was dated the 12th of September, 1792, the Duke returned the following answer:—

“ MY DEAR NELSON, “ Clarence Lodge, Sept. 21.

“ I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your friendly letter of the 12th instant, which came safely. I am so fully persuaded of your real regard for me, my good friend, that no fresh mark can be wanting to convince me. Still, however, at the present moment, when the public have two opinions, the one good, the other disadvantageous, of my parliamentary conduct, I feel highly obliged to you, as a person qualified to judge, for delivering your sentiments. I think it is the duty of every subject to prevent, if possible, that confusion which might throw our kingdom into the wretched, deplorable state of France. Assure our common friends in the West Indies, that I will neither neglect nor desert them. My best wishes and compliments attend Mrs. Nelson, and ever believe me yours, sincerely.”

“ WILLIAM.”

The following testimony of Nelson's attachment to his sovereign is without date, but the letter seems

to have been sent to the Duke of Clarence on the 3d of November:—

“ SIR,

“ YOUR Royal Highness will not, I trust, deem it improper, although I have no doubt it will be thought unnecessary, at this time, to renew my expressions of invariable attachment, not only to your Royal Highness, but to my KING; for, I think, that very soon every individual will be called forth to shew himself, if I may judge from this county, where societies are formed, and forming, on principles certainly inimical to our present Constitution, both in Church and State. Sorry am I to believe that many give a countenance to these societies, who ought to conduct themselves otherwise.

“ In what way it might be in the power of such an humble individual as myself to best serve my KING, has been matter of serious consideration, and no mode appeared to me so proper as asking for a ship; accordingly, on Saturday last, Lord Chatham received my letter, desiring the command of one. Still, as I have hitherto been disappointed in all my applications to his lordship, I can hardly expect any answer to my letter, which has always been the way I have been treated. But neither at sea, nor on shore, can my attachment to my KING be shaken. It will never end but with my life.”

On the 6th of December, his Royal Highness returned the following answer:—

“ DEAR NELSON,

“ THOUGH at present the armament is confined to small vessels, I much doubt whether any fleet will be equipped, and still less do I see any chance for any rupture between this country and France. At the same time, this pernicious and fallacious system of equality, and universal liberty, must be checked, or else we shall here have the most dreadful consequences. I perfectly agree with you, that it is the duty of every individual to

use his utmost efforts to counteract these incendiaries; and I hope we shall in Parliament take vigorous and effectual means to restore tranquillity at home. Should matters between the two countries grow serious, you must be employed. Never be alarmed. I will always stand your friend. I wish you would write me word how you and Lord Hood are at present. My best wishes and compliments attend Mrs. Nelson, and ever believe me yours sincerely.”

“WILLIAM.”

It soon appeared, however, that Nelson had taken a more accurate observation of the political horizon than his royal friend. The letter of the Duke had scarcely been written and despatched, when the militia was embodied, and the Parliament reassembled by proclamation. The King in his speech said—

“I have carefully observed a strict neutrality in the present war on the continent, and have uniformly abstained from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France; but it is impossible for me to see, without the most serious uneasiness, the strong and increasing indications which have appeared there, of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries—to disregard the rights of neutral nations—and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, as well as to adopt towards my allies, the States-General, who have observed the same neutrality with myself, measures which are neither conformable to the law of nations, nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties. Under all these circumstances, I have felt it my indispensable duty to have recourse to those means of prevention, and internal defence, with which I am entrusted by law; and I have also thought it right to take steps for making some augmentation of my naval and military force; being

persuaded that these exertions are necessary in the present state of affairs, and are best calculated, both to maintain internal tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace.”

The address being moved and seconded, the Duke of Norfolk expressed a doubt whether the militia had been legally embodied. His grace was followed by the Marquess of Lansdown, in a speech full of invective against all the measures of Government. He deprecated going to war with France upon the question of opening the Scheldt, conceiving that we had nothing to do with the business; that, if we were bound by treaty, the treaty was a bad one, and the sooner it was given up the better.

Lord Grenville combated the arguments of the Marquess, and took a review of the internal and external state of the country, to shew the necessity of vigorous measures. A seditious spirit had appeared among a number of designing men, who were supported and encouraged by too many of their superiors. His lordship said, that he held in his hand no less than ten treasonable papers, which had been transmitted to the National Convention, from different clubs in this kingdom, during the preceding month. Some of these papers stated, that there were thousands in England ready to stand up for the rights of man, and to form a National Convention here, upon the ruins of the aristocracy.

These addresses were not only received by the French revolutionary government, but answered in a complimentary strain, and with the promise of co-operation. Hence it became evident, that the principle of the French republic was to spread anarchy all over Europe,

for the purpose of establishing an empire more extensive, and of a worse character, than that which constituted the ambition of Louis the Fourteenth. Towards the attainment of this object, they had already gained the whole of Savoy, penetrated into the Austrian Netherlands, and had now demanded the opening of the Scheldt, which, if carried, would annex Holland to the French territories.

The Duke of Clarence perfectly coincided with the noble secretary of state in all the sentiments he had just expressed. His Royal Highness said, that, with regard to himself, he had made an offer of his services in his professional line, in which he thought he could be most beneficial to his country. To him it also appeared, that it was of little signification whether the opening of the Scheldt was of any consequence to us—it was sufficient for our interference, if the Dutch held it to be of importance to them; for, if the French should overturn that government, and afterwards have a design upon our own, we might, in that case, have to meet the Dutch fleet as enemies, instead of acting with them as friends.

Several peers, who had hitherto been leaders in the rank of opposition, now gave their support to ministers; particularly the Earls Fitzwilliam and Carlisle, Lords Stormont and Rawdon. Even Earl Stanhope declared himself in favour of the British constitution; because it possessed, as he said, the power of correcting itself

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1793 TO 1796.

THE appeal to arms being now made, the Duke of Clarence lost no time in procuring, as he had promised, a ship for his friend Nelson, who, on the 30th of January, 1793, was appointed to the *Agamemnon*, of sixty-four guns, destined for the Mediterranean. On the 25th of the following month, the Duke of York, with three battalions of the Guards, embarked at Greenwich, being accompanied thither by the King and Prince of Wales, mounted as military officers; while the Duke of Clarence, in a coach-and-six, attended the Queen and Princesses.

In the same month, there was an extended naval promotion, when the Royal Duke was advanced from the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, to that of the red.—This step, however, was a mere matter of course, and therefore could not be justly considered as a personal distinction, or as a compensation for the neglect with which his Royal Highness's repeated offers of service had been treated. He had now arrived at that period of life when he was best fitted for active employment; besides which, the times seemed to call, as it were, imperatively upon all persons of his high birth, to stand forward in the defence of their hereditary rights.

Why, therefore, when the Duke of York was appointed to command the British forces on the continent, his brother, who had been brought up in the kindred service,

and passed through all its grades with reputation, should be wholly passed over at such a crisis, was a question commonly asked, but never answered. That the omission did not lie with ministers, was generally admitted; and it is a certain fact, that the Royal Duke did not want interest with the Admiralty, when exerted on behalf of others; though, in regard to himself, there was a remora which impeded his progress, and kept him stationary, till his professional services on the ocean were no longer wanted.

But if the history of the Duke of Clarence, at this important period, had no brilliant circumstances to be recorded in the memoir of his life, there was nothing in it to require the skilful management of an apologist. He pursued a noiseless course, while his friends were engaged in the battle-field: but he was not an inattentive observer of what was passing in the world around him; nor did he, when forced by necessity to keep aloof from action, indulge in frivolous amusements or vicious pleasures. During the sitting of Parliament, he was constant in his attendance, and occasionally took a part in the debate, but only upon great public questions, and without regulating his opinion or vote by the spirit of party. He supported ministers in the conduct of the eventful war, which was certainly at the commencement of it a very popular one, however unfavourable the general sentiment respecting it proved afterwards. The mind of the Royal Duke was of too strong a texture to be shifted from its purpose by casualties or clamour. A convincing proof of his independent spirit, and contempt of popular fame, appeared in his uniform and active opposition to the abolition of the slave-trade. Whether the views taken by him of that great subject

were right or wrong, one thing is certain, that they were the result of experience and local observation.

His Royal Highness was, in every sense of the word, a disinterested advocate of the Western colonists; for though he bore in remembrance their affectionate attention to him in his different visits to the islands, he could have no inducement to defend them, much less at the expense of humanity. It cannot be denied, however, that the Duke took so very warm and prominent a part in the cause of the planters, as gave great offence to many persons of worth and distinction. This effervescence of zeal carried him sometimes over the line of prudence, and brought him into conflict with men animated by a similar spirit on the opposite side. An instance of this occurred on the 11th of April this year. The Earl of Abingdon, a nobleman of the most eccentric character, moved that the consideration of the petitions respecting the slave-trade should be deferred for five months. His lordship assigned as the reason for his motion, that the abolitionists were acting under a mask, to introduce the new philosophy of France; and he accused Dr. Priestley, in particular, of preaching and publishing a sermon on the slave-trade, in which he introduced principles inimical to a monarchical government. This desultory speech was replied to in as warm a strain by Earl Stanhope, the stanch advocate of the French revolution, and of course an equally zealous one for the abolition of African slavery.

The Duke of Clarence next rose, and argued, at some length, on the injustice and impolicy of putting an end to the trade in the manner in which it was attempted. His Royal Highness said, that Mr. James Ramsay, who began the business of this sort, governed his own plan-

tation, in the island of Nevis, in the most tyrannical manner. None but fanatics or hypocrites, the royal speaker said, were for the abolition. The Duke then read a letter that had been sent to Condorcet from this country, which evidently proved that the ideas of French freedom were connected with the abolition of the slave-trade by the present advocates of that measure. His Royal Highness concluded with some very severe animadversions on Mr. Wilberforce, and others, who had lately received from the National Convention the flattering distinction of republican denizenship—an honour which would never be envied by any loyal or virtuous man in England.

These reflections, thrown out upon Mr. Wilberforce, and those philanthropists who acted with him, were not to be passed over in silence.

Lord Grenville, therefore, as the mover of the bill in the House of Lords, felt it his duty to censure, but in a serious and respectful manner, the language that had, in the ardour of debate, escaped his Royal Highness, to the injury of one of the most upright and loyal characters in the kingdom.

Dr. Horsley, Bishop of St. David's, and a most determined opponent of the trade, repelled the charge of being a "fanatic," and the friend of Condorcet. "As to fanaticism," said the bishop, "I know not at whom that shot was directed, nor do I care. It concerns not me; conscious, as I am, that, with the profoundest reverence for religion, the constant tenour of my life bears not the slightest stamp of fanaticism."

With respect to the charge of Jacobinism, thrown upon the abolitionists, the bishop said, that it was a wretched calumny, and that the question had no more to

do with French philosophy, than with the religion of the Parsees. His lordship acknowledged, that he had formerly corresponded with Condorcet, on mathematical subjects, but said, that, since the Revolution, he had neither written, nor received a letter from him.—

In the next session, a bill was passed through the lower house, abolishing that part of the trade which went to the supply of the territories of foreign nations; but when brought up to the Lords, it was opposed by the Duke of Clarence, and thrown out by a great majority; besides which, a motion of Bishop Horsley, for receiving evidence, was also negatived.

Although his Royal Highness could not obtain permission to share in the peril and glory of war, he felt anxious for those of his friends who were in active employment; and he kept up an extensive correspondence with distinguished officers, of the military as well as the naval service. On parting with Nelson, the Royal Duke exacted a promise, to hear from him as often as his engagements would allow. This promise was punctually fulfilled, and the letters that passed between these illustrious friends will be found to throw light upon the history of that eventful period.

Of the evacuation of Toulon at the end of this year, after having for a few months been occupied by the English and Spanish forces, Nelson sent to the Duke a long narrative, written at Leghorn, the 27th of December, 1793. In this affecting account, he says, “On the 19th, in the morning, such a scene was displayed as would make the hardest heart feel: the mob had risen, was plundering, and committing every excess. Many—numbers cannot be estimated—were drowned, trying to get off; boats upset; and many put a period to their

existence. One family of a wife and five children are just arrived—the husband shot himself. In this scene of horror, Lord Hood was obliged to order the French fleet of twenty sail of the line, and as many other ships of war, together with the arsenal and powder-magazines, to be set on fire. Report says, one half of that miserable place is in ashes. The quitting Toulon by us, I am satisfied, is a national benefit—both in money, (for our contracts will be found to have been very extravagant, people seeming to act as if fortunes were to be made instantly,) and in saving some of our gallant English blood, which, when the muster comes to be taken, will appear to have flowed plentifully. The destruction of the fleet and arsenal, and indeed of the harbour of Toulon, for a number of years, is a great benefit to England.”

When the island of Corsica was reduced, in which service Nelson distinguished himself by land as well as sea, the French prisoners were conveyed in British transports to Toulon. Nelson, in his letter to the Duke, gives an account of the treatment which our seamen experienced there, in return for their humanity. Instead of dismissing the vessels with speed, it seemed as if, by their delay, the republicans sought an excuse for keeping them.

“No reason,” says Nelson, “was ever given for detaining them; but their sails were taken from them, and, during their stay, not a man was suffered to go on shore. They were, however, treated tolerably, until the arrival of Jean Bon St. Andrè, who, to the officers’ modest and proper requests, gave insolent answers, the true characteristic of little minds:—a generous enemy would have disdained the withholding medical assistance from

the unfortunate, whom chance had put in their power. At eight o'clock in the evening of the 20th of November, 1794, their sails were sent alongside, with a message, that, if they were not out of the harbour by twelve o'clock next day, they would keep them. The English, poor fellows, wanted no spur to clear them of such wretches; one transport, that got aground, they left behind, and she is not yet arrived."

This Jean Bon St. Andrè was one of the most furious of the Jacobinical faction, and had been on board the French admiral's ship, *La Montagne*, as a national commissioner, in the late engagement with Lord Howe, on the 1st of June; which circumstance, in all probability, contributed not a little to irritate his mind against every thing English.

As the Duke of Clarence was deprived of the honour of participating in the laurels won by his late commander, Earl Howe, and many of his former shipmates, he next sought permission to carry a musket, or trail a pike, against the enemy, on the continent—but with no better success.

The perilous situation in which the Duke of York stood, after the battle of Fleurus, alarmed Government to such a degree, that the Earl of Moira was suddenly detached from another service, to his relief. Upon this occasion, the Duke of Clarence again entreated leave to join the army as a volunteer, and again he had the mortification to be denied, though his request had no other object than that of rendering assistance to his brother. Lord Moira, however, effected his purpose, and, after defeating the French in two actions, joined the Duke of York with ten thousand men, between Brussels and Antwerp. Notwithstanding this reinforcement, his

Royal Highness was compelled to retreat into Holland, from whence he returned to England at the beginning of the following year.

The war now assumed a more inauspicious aspect. Prussia, after taking a subsidy from this country, applied the money, not against France, but Poland, and then made peace with the republic. Spain also consented to a termination of hostilities, and by that means enabled the French to overrun Italy. Lastly, the Seven United Provinces entered into a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the French republic, and abolished the stadtholderate.

Thus, with the exception of Austria, the allies of Britain were converted into enemies; and, as two of these powers were maritime, the combination was truly formidable, and demanded correspondent exertions, of the most vigorous nature, on the part of our Government. The Mediterranean now became the principal theatre of military and naval operations: the former being left to the Imperialists; and the latter, with better fortune, to the English. In this quarter, the name of Nelson had already gained renown, and every day added to its lustre. The correspondence between him and the Duke continued with increasing interest on both sides; and Nelson, writing to his wife at this time, says, "I have just received a very affectionate letter from his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, and he appears to remember our long acquaintance with much satisfaction. One of his expressions is, 'I never part with a letter of yours—they are to me highly valuable.' He finds me unalterable; which I fancy he has not always done, in those he has honoured with a preference."

On the 15th of January, 1795, Nelson was in the

harbour of St. Fiorenzo, in Corsica, from whence he wrote, as follows, to the Duke of Clarence:—

“ Our last cruise, from December 21st, 1794, to January the 10th, when we arrived in this port, was such a series of storms and heavy seas, as I never before experienced; the fleet was twelve days under storm-staysails. Our ships, although short of complement, are remarkably healthy, as are the troops in this island. There is already a difference to be perceived in the cultivation of the land, since last year. Many hundred acres of pasture are now covered with wheat; and as the Corsicans will find a ready sale for their corn, wine, and oil, (the two last articles the French suppressed as much as possible,) every year will doubtless increase the growth. The fleet goes to sea on the 22d or 23d, thirteen sail of the line. The French have fifteen in the outer road of Toulon, and fifty sail of large transports ready at Marseilles; therefore it is certain they have some expedition just ready to take place, and I have no doubt but Porto Especia is their object. We soon expect to be joined by some Neapolitan ships and frigates. I have no idea we shall get much good from them; they are not seamen, and cannot keep the sea beyond a passage. I beg your Royal Highness to believe that I am your most faithful servant.”

What Nelson anticipated, soon occurred. The French fleet at Toulon, taking advantage of the absence of the blockading squadron, slipped out of the harbour, and steered for Corsica, with the intent of landing troops to recapture the island. Admiral Hotham, on receiving intelligence that the enemy was at sea, immediately left the road of Leghorn; and on the 13th of March, a running action was fought, which terminated the day following by the flight of the French. leaving in

the possession of the victors two ships—the *Ca Ira*, of eighty, and the *Censeur*, of seventy-four guns. In this affair, Nelson displayed his wonted heroism; but he could not prevail upon the commander-in-chief to continue in pursuit of the fugitives. “I think we have done pretty well,” was the answer he received from the admiral; to which he quickly replied, “I wish, sir, I could think so too.”

In writing an account of this partial engagement to his royal friend, Nelson says:—

“I hope and believe, if we only get three sail from England, that we shall prevent this fleet of the enemy from doing further service in the Mediterranean, notwithstanding the red shot and combustibles—of which they have had a fair trial, and found them useless. They believed that we should give them no quarter; and it was with some difficulty we found the combustibles, which are fixed in a skeleton, like a carcass; they turn into liquid, and water will not extinguish it. They say the Convention sent them from Paris, but that they did not use any of them, only hot shot.”

That Nelson had reason to be dissatisfied, appeared shortly afterwards; for, having a flying squadron under his command, he fell in with a French fleet of seventeen sail of ships of the line, before whom he was of course compelled to retreat, and take shelter in the bay of St. Fiorenzo. On this, Admiral Hotham again put to sea; and the result was another incomplete action, in which a French seventy-four was destroyed, and the rest escaped. Nelson was then detached from the fleet with a squadron, to act with an Austrian force encamped near Genoa, against the French, in the same neighbourhood. Of this service, and the conduct of the Genoese government, the

commodore in the month of November sent the following curious particulars to the Duke of Clarence :—

“ Almost every day produces such changes in the prospect of our affairs, that, in relating events, I hardly know where to begin. The two armies are both so strongly posted, that neither is willing to give the attack ; each waits to see which can endure the cold longest. The French general has laid an embargo on all the vessels on the coast, near a hundred sail ; and it would not surprise me if he were meditating a retreat, in case his plans do not succeed—which I hope they will not, as the prevention of them, in a great measure, depends on our naval force under my orders. This has called me here, where a circumstance has arisen, that has given us the alarm sooner than was intended. An Austrian commissary was travelling from Genoa towards Vado, with ten thousand pounds sterling ; and it was known he was to sleep at a place called Viltri, about nine miles from Genoa. This temptation was too great for the French captain of the *Brune*, in concert with the French minister, to keep his word of honour ; and the boats of that frigate, with some privateers, went out of the port, landed, and brought back the money. The next day, the 11th of November, recruiting was publicly carried on in the town of Genoa, and numbers enlisted ; and on the 13th, at night, as many men as could be collected were to sail, under convoy of the *Brune*, and to land, and take a strong post of the Genoese, between Genoa and Savona. A hundred men were to have been sent from the French army at Borghetto, and an insurrection of the Genoese peasantry was to have been encouraged ; which, I believe, would have succeeded for several miles up the country. General de Vins must have sent four

or five thousand men, probably from his army, which would have given the enemy a fair prospect of success in their attack. The scheme was bold, but I do not think it would have succeeded in all points. However, my arrival here on the 12th, in the evening, caused a total change: the frigate, knowing her deserts, and what had been done here before with the transports and privateers, hauled from the outer to the inner mole, and is got inside the merchant-ships, with her powder out; for no ships can go into the inner mole with powder on board; and, as I have long expected an embarkation from the French army from the westward, to harass General de Vins there, I was fully on my guard. Whilst I remain here, no harm can happen, unless, what private information says is likely to take place, that four sail of the line, and some frigates, are to come here, and take the *Agamemnon* and her squadron. What steps the Austrian generals and ministers will adopt, to get redress for this, I fear, allowed breach of neutrality on the part of the Genoese government, I cannot yet tell. It is a very extraordinary circumstance, but a fact, that, since my arrival, respect to the neutral port has not been demanded of me; if it had, my answer was ready—‘That it was useless and impossible for me to give it.’ As the breach of the neutrality has not been noticed, I fancy they are aware of my answer, and therefore declined asking the question.”

These extracts are given here, to shew the interest which the Duke of Clarence took in the war, though kept by imperative necessity from bearing any public part in the conflict. One thing, however, is certain, though not generally known, that his opinion had a considerable influence in our naval councils at that time. To this

cause, therefore, much of the glory which then followed the track of the British fleets is to be attributed. Nelson's correspondence, being of a private nature, imparted many things, and conveyed many observations, which, important as they were, could not, consistently with professional prudence, be transmitted officially to Government. This restriction did not apply to the familiarity of friendship, and therefore much knowledge was obtained through this medium by ministers, of which they would otherwise have been ignorant. From the information thus furnished, the state of affairs in the Mediterranean assumed a new aspect. Sir John Jervis succeeded Admiral Hotham, and the consequences of that change were not long afterwards displayed off Cape St. Vincent and the Nile.

We must now quit the seat of war, for scenes of another description.

On the 8th of April, 1795, the Prince of Wales was married to his cousin Caroline of Brunswick. The ceremony was performed, with great solemnity, in the Chapel-Royal, St. James's Palace; and, in the procession, the bride was led by the Duke of Clarence.

It has been said that this ill-fated alliance, alike injurious to the parties themselves, and to the nation, was brought to a conclusion, after some suspense, by the high-coloured picture of the Princess, which the Royal Duke, when he came from Germany, gave to his brother. How far this may be true, it is not easy to say; but another account, with more probability, ascribes the flattering encomium to Prince Adolphus, who, during his residence abroad, often visited Brunswick; and when asked his opinion of Caroline, said, "She was, in every respect, like his sister Mary." Now, it so happened,

that, of all the female branches of the family, the Princess Mary, now Duchess of Gloucester, was the one that enjoyed most of the esteem of the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness, therefore, on hearing what his brother said, remarked, that, if his cousin resembled his sister, she was all he could wish in a wife. Such stories are of trifling moment, or, if worth relating, it is only to shew how little dependence is to be put upon external appearances, in forming a judgment of the human character.

One thing is clear, that the union was not that of principle or affection, on either side. Interest and ambition tied the knot ; and, therefore, it was not to be wondered, that minds so ill assorted should recede from each other with equal repulsion.

The first main object of the Prince, in yielding to the proposal of marriage, was the increase of his income, and the payment of his debts. But here lay the difficulty : for the nation was labouring under heavy burdens brought on by the war ; the people were in a state of discontent ; the Prince had offended his old political friends, by voting and speaking in Parliament against their avowed sentiments ; and, worse than all the rest, the manner in which his debts had been contracted was generally condemned.

A proper settlement, however, was indispensable, and this necessarily involved the consideration of the present circumstances of the Prince. On the 27th of April, Mr. Pitt brought down to the House of Commons a message from his Majesty, recommending an establishment for the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the adoption of some plan for the liquidation of the existing debts of his Royal Highness.

This message was taken into consideration in a committee of the whole house, on the 14th of May, when the minister proposed fixing the establishment of the Prince at £125,000, exclusive of the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall. There were, Mr. Pitt said, other articles to come before the committee of supply, such as £25,000, for completing Carlton House; about £28,000, to defray the expenses of the marriage; and £50,000, as a jointure for her Royal Highness.

Mr. Pitt then touched upon the embarrassments of the Prince. The claims upon him from his creditors amounted to £620,000, exclusive of certain sums for which he was security for two of his illustrious brothers, but which, by these royal personages, were now put in a train of liquidation, and would not increase the public burdens.

On the nature of these debts, the minister dwelt with much severity, and was of opinion that they should be submitted to the investigation of a secret committee, or, if that was not sufficient, to a parliamentary commission.

To answer the desired end, something should be taken from the Prince's income, that an example of excess and prodigality might not go down to posterity without a mark of disapprobation. The plan, therefore, he had to propose, was, that of vesting in the hands of the commission, the revenue of £13,000, arising from the Duchy of Cornwall, to be converted into a sinking fund, at compound interest; together with £25,000, from the yearly income, to be placed in the four per cents.; by which the whole of the debts would be discharged in twenty-five years. Proper measures also should be taken to secure these payments, in case of the demise of

the crown, or of the death of the Prince himself. Mr. Pitt concluded with moving, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that a yearly income, not exceeding £65,000, be granted to his Majesty, to enable him to make such additions to the establishment of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as may become the dignity assumed by him on his marriage."

The resolution was carried, but not without considerable opposition. Mr., now Earl Grey, was particularly strong in his animadversions on the conduct of the Prince. The addition now proposed, he said, was out of all proportion to former allowances; and, therefore, he should move, as an amendment, that the addition be £40,000, instead of £65,000. To a suitable allowance to the Princess, he had no objection.

Mr. Fox was for the larger sum; but he disapproved of the plan for liquidating the debts. He would propose that £65,000 per annum be set apart as a sinking fund for the clearing of encumbrances, and the sale of the Duchy of Cornwall, which, it was supposed, would realize six hundred thousand pounds. Of this amount, he would appropriate a moiety to the further extinction of debts, and allow the other half to the crown, or the Prince of Wales, as an equivalent for the loss of the income of the Duchy. By this plan, probably, Mr. Fox said, in the course of four or five years, his Royal Highness would be perfectly cleared; but then his remaining income of £60,000 a year, would hardly be sufficient to support his rank.

On a division, the amendment of Mr. Grey was negatived, and a bill ordered to be brought in, founded on the original resolution.

In the interval, the Prince, acting by his legal adviser,

Mr. Anstruther, sent a message to both houses, professing his entire acquiescence in whatever measures Parliament might choose to recommend for his establishments—the payment of his present, and the prevention of future debts. This had the effect of facilitating the business through the House of Commons; but the bill of the minister was immediately followed by another, on the motion of Sir William Pulteney, for preventing future Princes of Wales from contracting debts.

On the 24th of June, the first bill came under debate, in the House of Lords, when the Duke of Clarence entered into an elaborate and impassioned defence of his brother. His Royal Highness began with making some observations on the title of the bill; and then said, he should confine his remarks to that part which related to the provision for the payment of the Prince's creditors.

The Duke acknowledged there were some parts of the bill which met with his approbation. It naturally and properly became an object to grant a suitable establishment to the Prince, on account of his marriage. In granting this establishment, however, it might have been supposed that the Prince had now come to an age, at which he was fully capable of acting for himself, and would, of his own accord, have been disposed to take measures to free himself from any encumbrances which he might have contracted. But, instead of this—instead of allowing him the merit of taking measures of his own motion, for the payment of his creditors—the authors of the bill had taken the popularity of such a step out of his hands. The other provision, which made the different officers of the household responsible for the expenses incurred under their respective departments,

he highly approved, as tending to the ease and dignity of the royal personage.

“A Prince of Wales,” the Duke said, “by a particular law, became of age at eighteen, while every other subject did not attain his majority till he was twenty-one. A young man at that time of life, when the passions were at their height, might be led into expenses beyond his income, even to a degree bordering on extravagance, and yet the circumstance ought not to be considered as calling for any serious reflection.”

His Royal Highness next remarked, that “those who had been most concerned in forwarding the business, instead of acting as they ought, had so managed as to take away all credit from the Prince, in order to appropriate it to themselves. The bill, to prevent future Princes of Wales from contracting debts, instead of going hand-in-hand with the present one, had been brought forward as a marked personality to his Royal Highness.”

The Duke said, “he would not betray any thing that passed in private conversation, yet he could not avoid making some remarks on the manner in which the business had been introduced. It was a matter of public notoriety, that, before the marriage took place, it was stipulated that the Prince should, in the event of the union, be disencumbered of his debts. What could be understood by this stipulation, but that measures should be taken for the immediate exoneration of those debts—not, as by the provisions of the present bill, that they should be left hanging over for the space of nine years and a half, and perhaps a longer period. The authors of the bill had stated, that the honour and stability of the throne rested upon the support of the independence

and dignity of every branch of the Royal Family, and particularly of the Prince of Wales. Was the method they had taken calculated to support that dignity, and that independence ?

The Prince had, indeed, expressed his acquiescence in whatever measures the wisdom of Parliament might think proper to recommend ; but in what situation was he placed ? The bill, in one point of view, was a public bill—as every bill was which related to any member of the Royal Family ; but it was nevertheless more strictly a private bill, as nothing could be done without the consent of the Prince himself. Advantage then had been taken of the difficulties in which he was involved, in order to procure from him this consent. He was forced to express his acquiescence, in order that something might be done. He was in the situation of a man, who, if he cannot get a particular haunch of venison, will take any other haunch, rather than go without.

The Duke next alluded to the great number of pamphlets which had been published, in order to influence the minds of the good and generous people of England against his royal brother. He knew persons, in another place, he said, who possessed great powers of eloquence, and an abundant choice of animated expressions. These persons had exerted their powers, in order to support the measure of granting a subsidy of £200,000 a year to the King of Sardinia ; a sum of £1,200,000 to the King of Prussia ; and lately, a loan of £4,600,000 to the Emperor of Austria. But, though on these occasions they displayed all their stores of animated language, yet, when they brought forward the situation of the Prince of Wales, they prefaced what they had to propose with the expressions—“ an unpleasant task—an arduous under-

taking—the distresses of the people in consequence of the war—the regret at laying additional burdens on the public ;”—yet he must remark, that if they had adopted, with regard to his brother, a language something more favourable, as to the impression it was calculated to give of his conduct, to the country, they would not have had a vote less to the present bill.

His Royal Highness next touched on the situation of that lovely and amiable woman, the Princess of Wales, torn from her family ; for, though her mother was the King's sister, she might still be said to be torn from her family, by being removed from all her early connexions : what must be her feelings from such circumstances, attendant on her reception in a country, where she had a right to expect every thing befitting her high rank, and the exalted station to which she was called ? As the friend of the Prince, however, the Duke said, he would not oppose the passing of the present bill, for he was convinced that the sooner it passed, the sooner would its absurdity and malignity appear.

If, as had been stated, the arrears of the Duchy of Cornwall were due to the Prince during the period of his minority, he hoped that question would be quickly brought forward, and he trusted that the noble lord [Loughborough], before whom it would come to be argued in his judicial capacity, and whose justice could not be impeached, would throw no impediment in the way of its speedy decision.

An allusion having been made to the foreign loan that had been negociated on behalf of the three Princes, his Royal Highness took occasion to say, that the affair was completely settled.

Lord Grenville replied, and observed, that he held no

official situation under the crown, when the debts of the Prince of Wales were before Parliament on a former occasion, but that the opinion he then formed, he still maintained on the subject. He added, that it did not become him to take upon himself the defence of members of the other House of Parliament, to whom allusions had been made; from some of whom he differed, and some of them he knew were pretty well able to defend themselves. They had granted large supplies for the prosecution of a war, which they considered just and necessary. They had, however, at least many of them, expressed much unwillingness to support the present measure. He knew no reason for saying that they were not actuated by a due sense of their public duty, and therefore he, for one, was not prepared to censure them for their conduct. The question before their lordships was not one of attachment to any particular person, but it was a public question, on which every member of Parliament ought to act according to his own ideas of public duty. There were, no doubt, some persons who wished to vilify his Royal Highness, and every branch of his Family. Such persons were enemies to monarchy; but sure he was, that it was the object of ministers to keep the monarchy respectable and dignified, and he had no doubt but that such was the wish of the great mass of the people.

The Duke of Clarence again rose, and observed, that the noble secretary of state had said, that he was not a minister when the debts of the Prince of Wales were before Parliament on a former occasion. But his Royal Highness begged leave to recall to his recollection, that he was minister in 1792. He now wished to know, whether there was not a statement of facts on the

encumbrances of the Prince of Wales at that time, presented to a certain quarter. He knew there was, and therefore the noble secretary could not be ignorant of the affairs of the Prince at that period.

Lord Grenville, in reply, said, there could be no debate where there was no equality, and, therefore, he must decline any further contest on the subject. He had stated what part he had taken as a member of Parliament, and what had officially occurred upon the matter before the house. He apprehended that it did not come within the line of his duty to state any thing concerning what happened in another quarter.

On the 23d of April, 1795, the trial of Warren Hastings, after lasting above seven years, was brought to a conclusion, in the acquittal of the defendant by the Lords, and a vote of thanks to the managers of the prosecution, by the House of Commons. To the honour of the peers of the blood-royal, not one of them took any part in this business, either by vote or otherwise.

The autumnal session of Parliament opened on the 29th of October, under very inauspicious circumstances. The rapid progress of the French armies on every part of the continent, produced general gloom in England; and this spirit of discontent being aggravated by the scarcity of provisions, as is usual in such cases, broke out in acts of violence against Government. The King was attacked, both in going to, and returning from, the House of Lords; and two direct attempts were made upon his life—first, by a shot fired from a house in Margaret Street, Westminster; and next, in passing through the Park, where a desperate mob, taking advantage of the absence of the soldiers, surrounded the carriage, and were in the act of breaking open the doors, when the Guards

came up to his Majesty's relief. Though large rewards were offered for the apprehension of any of the offenders, none appeared, to claim them by information—which shewed clearly that there was not only an organized combination formed, to bring about a revolution; but that it was strongly cemented, and well supported.

Such, indeed, was the impression made upon the public mind by these atrocities, that, when ministers introduced two bills—one for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts," and the other, "for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies"—the same were carried through both houses by immense majorities.

Notwithstanding these vigorous measures, fresh attempts against the King and Queen were made on the night of the 1st of February, 1796, on their return from the theatre of Drury Lane. Her Majesty was cut in the face by some sharp missile, thrown into the carriage in Chandos Street; and opposite Carlton House, a large stone fell into the lap of the lady in waiting.

Such, at this period, was the perilous state of Royalty, that, in the language of one of our elder poets, the poorest peasant might have said to his neighbour—

“ Didst thou but feel

The weighty sorrows which sit on a crown,
Though thou shouldst find one in the streets, Castruccio,
Thou wouldst not think it worth the taking up.”

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1796 TO 1798.

ON the 7th of January, 1796, the Princess of Wales was delivered of a daughter, at Carlton House—where, on the 11th of the following month, the Royal Infant was baptized, and received the names of Charlotte Augusta; their Majesties standing sponsors in person, and the Duchess of Brunswick, by her representative, the Princess Royal.

This star of an illustrious line arose on the verge of a stormy horizon, and amidst the wrecks of regality, scattered in different directions. On the day preceding the birth of the Princess, Charles Philip, Count D'Artois, with a few faithful adherents, landed at Leith, and took up his abode in Holyrood House, the ancient palace of the Scottish kings; but where no prince had resided since Charles Edward, who might be said to have come, like the shadow of royalty, to extinguish for ever the title of an illustrious but unfortunate race. Between the history of the house of Stuart, and that of the house of Bourbon, the resemblance is striking in many respects; but in none more than in their fall. James the Second, when driven from the throne of a long line of ancestors, found an asylum at St. Germain's, under the protection of Louis the Fourteenth, then the most powerful monarch in Europe. But, behold the reverse of fortune! Louis the Sixteenth, like Charles Stuart, lost his head on the

scaffold ; and his brother, after many wanderings, obtained shelter in the once splendid, and now almost dilapidated, palace of Edinburgh—no longer the seat of kings, but the refuge of debtors and fugitives.

Here Charles Philip was soon joined by his son, the Duke de Angoulême ; and here the former remained some years in the enjoyment of tranquil repose, till the sudden change of affairs recalled him to France with his family, only to be made again the sport of fortune, and, after tasting the intoxicating cup of grandeur, to be thrown back to his former retreat in the capital of Scotland.

Such are the mutations of human life, to which another instance was added, at this period, in the forced resignation of the crown of Poland by Stanislaus the Second, and the erasure of that country as a nation from the map of Europe.

But Catherine of Russia did not long triumph over the victim whom she had dragged from a throne, first to Grodno, and next to Petersburg ; a conqueror, of resistless power, on the 5th of November, 1796, arrested her when alone within the recess of her palace, unobserved by any attendant, and, after lingering a few hours, but deprived of all sensibility, this extraordinary woman expired.

But we must now bring under review some incidents of domestic history. In the month of March, this year, died two British admirals ; of whom a few anecdotes will be found deserving of insertion in this memoir, as illustrative of professional character and national history.

The first of these veterans was the Hon. John Forbes, who died at the advanced age of eighty-two. When the unfortunate Byng was sentenced to die for an error of judgment, Mr. Forbes, who was then a member of the

Admiralty board, refused signing the warrant of execution, for which he assigned his reasons in a letter to the King, but without effect. Admiral Forbes then indignantly gave up his seat, and soon after the whole board was changed.

During the administration of Earl Shelburne, afterwards Marquis of Lansdowne, Admiral Forbes was asked to resign the office of General of Marines, which he had held many years, and which Government wanted for a friend of their own. The admiral was told that he should be no loser by his compliance, as they proposed giving him a pension of three thousand a year, and a peerage, to descend to his daughter. Admiral Forbes sent for answer, that the Generalship of Marines was a military employment, given to him by his Majesty, as a reward for his services—that he thanked God he had never been a burden to his country, which he had served during a long life to the best of his ability—and that he could not condescend to accept a pension, or to bargain for a peerage. He concluded by laying his generalship, together with his rank in the navy, at the feet of the King, entreating him to take both away, if they could forward his service; at the same time assuring his Majesty, he would never prove himself unworthy of the former honours he had received, by ending the remnant of a long life on a pension, or accepting of a peerage obtained by political arrangement. The King applauded the spirit of the admiral, ever after continued him in his military honours, and to the day of his death shewed him strong marks of his regard.

Sir Hugh Palliser, governor of Greenwich Hospital, died, at the age of seventy-five, in rather a remarkable manner. At the beginning of the war of 1756, he received

a wound in the leg, in an action with a French frigate of superior force. About five months before his dissolution, the admiral fell down in his garden; and the wound broke out afresh to such a degree, that all surgical skill proved ineffectual.

In the year 1754, while he commanded the Seahorse, then stationed in Leith roads, a sailor entered on board that ship. This man, being an apprentice, was demanded by his master, but Captain Palliser refused to give him up. On application to Mr. Philip, the judge of the court of admiralty in Scotland, a warrant was sent to bring the man on shore. The captain of the Seahorse, however, ordered the officer to return, saying, he had nothing to do with the laws of Scotland. The judge, then, caused Captain Palliser to be arrested and committed to prison. Next day he was brought into court; and on refusing to submit to its jurisdiction, he was remanded to his former place of confinement. After some consultation, the captain thought proper to yield, and was liberated. When the case was reported to Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, he said, "the judge was a bold man; but he has done what was right."

Captain Palliser thought otherwise; and, knowing how fond the gentry in that part of the kingdom were of claret, which, as the duty was low, they obtained very cheaply, he gave such information to the ministry, that a very considerable addition was made upon all French wines imported into Scotland.

The history of the difference between Keppel and Palliser is too well known to need any observation. Both commanders possessed the reputation of being brave men; and it may be particularly said of Sir Hugh, that he was as humane as he was brave.

Lord Howe succeeded Admiral Forbes as general of marines, and Lord Howe to the governorship of Greenwich Hospital.

To these desultory sketches we must here add one of a very different description. Among the novelties which distinguished this year, the alleged discovery of a body of manuscripts, bearing the name of Shakspeare, was one that naturally attracted general attention. These presumed reliques of genius were exceedingly multifarious, consisting of family papers, letters, poems, and one entire drama on the story of Vortigern.

Samuel Ireland, the possessor of this invaluable treasure, was not backward in announcing his good fortune to the public; and there were not wanting men of literary celebrity, to attest their belief in the authenticity of the manuscripts. Sheridan, and the other proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre, agreed to bring out Vortigern in a style suited to the presumed origin of the tragedy. Mrs. Jordan had a part assigned her in the representation; to which, in the performance, she did ample justice. Previous to this, the Duke of Clarence having expressed a desire to inspect the manuscripts, Samuel Ireland, accompanied by his son, the real fabricator of the whole mass of forgery, waited upon his Royal Highness, at his apartments in St. James's Palace. The younger Ireland, in his account of what passed on that occasion, says, "The Duke having carefully inspected all the documents produced, the usual questions were put to me respecting the original discovery of the manuscripts, in which Mrs. Jordan also joined; when my former statements were, as usual, strictly adhered to. His Royal Highness, I perfectly well remember, made numerous objections, and particularly to the redundancy of

letters, apparent throughout the papers. To every question, however, the same answers were made as usual; and thus the doubts which arose in his Royal Highness's mind were obviated by Mr. Ireland.

“As the agreement for the Vortigern was then on the point of being signed, much conversation took place upon that subject; in the course of which, his Royal Highness was so kind as to give Mr. Samuel Ireland many cautious hints. Respecting the language of the piece, as well as the plot and characters, numerous inquiries were made by Mrs. Jordan, as well as the Duke of Clarence; and I think it but justice, in this place, to offer my sincere thanks to that lady for her kind endeavours, on a subsequent occasion, when she had to sustain one of the principal characters in the drama.”

On the second of April, and not, as it should have been, the first, this boasted production of Shakspeare was represented to an overflowing house. But, though every artifice had been put in motion to stamp credit upon the counterfeit, the good sense of the people could not be imposed upon. As soon as Kemble, in giving a ridiculous prosopoeia of Death, uttered this unlucky line—

“And when this solemn mockery is o'er,”

the audience took it for a signal, and simultaneously condemned the miserable fraud to oblivion.

So presumptuous was Ireland in passing off his base gold for sterling bullion, that he rejected the prologue furnished by Pye, the laureat, on account of its not being sufficiently confident in maintaining the authenticity of the play. Upon this, Sir James Bland Burges was applied to; and the baronet, without any qualm of

conscience, wrote a prologue as strong as could be wished by the most interested patrons of the forgery.

We must here leave this disgraceful scene for one of real importance. On the 28th of June, the French troops entered the neutral city of Leghorn, under the pretext of dislodging the English; all the property belonging to whom, these marauders confiscated, without any regard to the rights of the Grand Duke. The factory, however, being apprised of the intended visit, had taken the precaution to remove with their effects to Porto Ferrajo in the isle of Elba. Commodore Nelson with his squadron now blockaded the harbour of Leghorn, from whence, on the 20th of July, he wrote as follows to his friend the Duke of Clarence :

“I was this morning honoured with your Royal Highness’s letter of May 30th, and it gives me real satisfaction to be assured of the continuance of your good opinion. Indeed, I can say with truth, that no one whom you may have been pleased to honour with your notice, has a more sincere attachment for you than myself. It has pleased God, this war, not only to give me frequent opportunities of shewing myself an officer worthy of trust, but also to prosper all my undertakings in the highest degree. I have had the extreme good fortune, not only to be noticed in my immediate line of duty, but also to obtain the repeated approbation of his Majesty’s ministers at Turin, Genoa, and Naples, as well as of the viceroy of Corsica, for my conduct in the various opinions I have been called upon to give; and, my judgment being formed from common sense, I have never yet been mistaken.”

Nelson then gives a sketch of affairs in Italy, particularly at Leghorn, where, says he, “the garrison is reinforced to 5000 men, and provisions are getting into the

citadel. The French general has told the inhabitants, that if they are not quiet, he would blow all the works up round the town, and which in fact would blow half the town up: the mines are laid; large vessels are also fitting with forty-two pounders and furnaces, to annoy *mé*—but I am prepared, as much as possible, against whatever may happen.”

About a month afterwards, Nelson wrote again to his Royal Friend as follows:

“In the present situation of affairs, I will not let slip an opportunity of writing to your Royal Highness. The check which the Austrians have met with in Italy, must give another unfavourable turn to the affairs of our allies. The French have made the most of it; and they were, no doubt, masters of the field of battle. I wish to say more than I dare trust to the post, of the object of an expedition that was to have taken place the moment we became victorious, in which I was to have been a powerful actor.

“Our affairs in Corsica are gloomy; there is a very strong republican party in that island, and they are well supported from France: the first favourable moment they will certainly act against us. The French are endeavouring to get over from the continent twenty and thirty men at a time, and they will accomplish it in spite of all we can do. Gentili, a Corsican, who commanded in Bastia when we took it, is arrived at Leghorn, to command in Corsica. Twenty field-pieces are sent from here, and are landed near Ajaccio.

“As to our fleet—under such a commander-in-chief as Sir John Jervis, nobody has any fears. We are now twenty-two sail of the line; the combined fleet will not be more than thirty-five sail of the line, supposing the

Dons detach to the West Indies. I will venture my life, Sir John Jervis defeats them; I do not mean by a regular battle, but by the skill of our admiral, and the activity and spirit of our officers and seamen.

“This country is the most favourable possible, for skill with an inferior fleet; for the winds are so variable, that some one time in twenty-four hours, you must be able to attack a part of a large fleet, and the other will be becalmed or have a contrary wind; therefore, I hope Government will not be alarmed for our safety, I mean more than is proper. I take for granted, they will send us reinforcements as soon as possible; but there is nothing we are not able to accomplish, under Sir John Jervis. I am stationed, as you know, to blockade Leghorn, and now Corsica may prevent my going to the fleet; which I feel very much—but all cannot be as we wish. I assure your Royal Highness, that no small part of my pleasure, in the acknowledgment of my services, has arisen from the conviction, that I am one of those, of whom, from your early youth, you have been pleased to have a good opinion; and I have to beg that your Royal Highness will ever believe me to be your most faithful—HORATIO NELSON.”

All Italy was now succumbing to the yoke, and every state striving to obtain as favourable conditions as possible from Buonaparte. The Pope humbled himself before the victor, and purchased a little temporary indulgence, by ceding to the French all the ports belonging to the Ecclesiastical States.

Upon this, Nelson, whose character had much in it of the spirit of chivalry, said, that as soon as his affairs were settled with the Grand Duke of Tuscany, he would pay a visit to the Pope. “I do not think,” he observed,

“that his holiness will oppose the thunder of the Vatican against my thunder; and, if I succeed, I am determined to row up the Tiber in my barge, and to enter Rome.”

Here a story of rather an extraordinary kind deserves to be related.

On Nelson's return to Naples, after the victory of the Nile, an Irish mendicant, of the order of St. Francis, presented to him a poem, of no great merit indeed, but remarkable for predicting the taking of Rome by the English admiral's fleet. The prophecy struck Nelson; who smiled, and represented to the author the impossibility of getting ships up the Tiber, to act against Rome. The friar replied, “I nevertheless foresee that it will certainly come to pass.” Nelson gave the prophet some dollars, and, for a time, both the mendicant and his prediction were forgotten.

But if the English ships did not sail up the Tiber, they took possession of Civita Vecchia, at the mouth of it; and when the French general claimed the Roman territory by right of conquest, the brave Commodore Trowbridge, who commanded that expedition, replied, “And its mine by reconquest.” Captain, afterwards Admiral Louis, was the first British seaman that rowed up the Tiber in his barge, hoisted English colours on the Capitol, and governed Rome. The prophetic friar, on the recommendation of Nelson, obtained ecclesiastical preferment at Naples.

When the change of affairs on the continent rendered Corsica no longer useful, or even tenable, by the English forces, the charge of removing to the isle of Elba was entrusted to Commodore Nelson, who, while thus engaged, on the 25th of October wrote the following letter to his Royal Friend :—

“ I was honoured with your Royal Highness’s letter of September 2d, a few days past, in the midst of a very active scene, the evacuation of Bastia ; which, being our first post, was entrusted to my direction : and I am happy to say, that not only Bastia, but every other place in the island, is completely evacuated. The Corsicans sent to Leghorn for the French, as was natural for them, in order to make their peace ; and the enemy was in one end of Bastia before we had quitted the other. The exertions of the navy, on this occasion, as on all others which I have seen, have been great, and beyond the expectations of those who never will believe what we are capable of performing. Our troops are ordered to Porto Ferrajo, which can be defended against any number of the enemy for a length of time ; and the port, although small, will hold, with management, our whole fleet and transports. As soon as all our transports are arrived at Elba, we are to go out to look for Man, who is ordered to come up : we shall then be twenty-two sail, of such ships as England hardly ever produced ; and commanded by an admiral, who will not fail to look the enemy in the face, be their force what it may. I suppose it will not be more than thirty-four sail of the line. If I live, your Royal Highness shall have no reason to regret your friendship for me ; and I will support Sir John Jervis to the utmost of my power. I hope soon to hear that your flag is flying ; which, I am sure, will be most honourable for yourself, and, I trust, most advantageous for our King and country.”

Two abortive attempts were made, within a short space of each other, at this period, to bring about a peace ; but the refusal of the French directory to accede to the reasonable terms of reciprocal compensations, put an

end to the negotiations almost as soon as they began. The British government insisted upon the surrender of the Netherlands, as a *sine qua non* in any treaty that might be concluded; and this was resisted, on the ground of conquest. When the proceedings came under discussion in Parliament, Mr. Fox inferred, that this demand, on the part of our ministers, was a proof of their insincerity. Mr. Dundas, on the other side, said, that to appreciate in some measure the value of Belgium, so far back as the reign of Henry the Fourth of France, it was held out in a negotiation then pending, "That one acre of land in that country was, in point of political importance, equal in value to any province in France."

Which opinion was right, subsequent events, and the present state of that country, will easily determine.

The combination, now formed of the navies of France, Spain, and Holland, seemed to threaten the annihilation of the power of Great Britain on the ocean; and, unquestionably, it was the confidence inspired by this united strength, that gave a peremptory and haughty tone to the republican rulers, in the mission of Lord Malmsbury.

The French government proposed to their allies, or rather, their dependants, that the Spanish fleet should, at the beginning of 1797, leave Cadiz for Brest, and there be joined by the Dutch naval forces; which junction, with that of the French republic, would have formed an armada of seventy ships of the line, sufficient, it was thought, to reduce Ireland, and wrest from Britain the dominion of the seas.

The preparations of the enemy plainly indicated their object; and ministers did not delay, in providing means for its defeat. The fleet of Sir John Jervis was stationed

off Cadiz, to act against the Spaniards; while Admiral Duncan, on the coast of Holland, kept a good look-out upon the operations of the Dutch in the Texel.

On the 13th of February, Admiral Jervis received intelligence that the Spanish fleet, under Don Joseph Cordova, was at sea; and at the break of day, the enemy, consisting of twenty-seven ships of the line, came in sight off Cape St. Vincent.

Though the British fleet amounted to no more than fifteen sail of the line, its brave commander-in-chief scorned to retreat, and immediately threw out a signal to form in two lines, for action. By carrying a press of sail, the squadron was so fortunate as to prevent the two divisions of the enemy's fleet from connecting, and to cut off all that portion which had fallen to leeward. Such a moment was not to be lost, and the gallant admiral, judging that the honour of his Majesty's arms, and the circumstances of the war in these seas, required a considerable degree of enterprise, felt himself justifiable in departing from the regular system. Accordingly, passing through the enemy's fleet in a line, he formed with the utmost celerity—attacked—and thereby separated one-third of the Spaniards from the main body. After a partial cannonade, which prevented their rejunction till the evening, four ships of the largest size were captured, and the battle ceased about five o'clock.

Commodore Nelson, who had joined the fleet from the Mediterranean only the day before, contributed essentially to the glory of this splendid victory; the particulars of which, in a very interesting narrative, he transmitted home to his illustrious friend, the Duke of Clarence.

There were but few English ships actually engaged; but what rendered the action most remarkable, was the

disparity of the loss of men, on both sides, the British admiral's ship having only one man killed; and Nelson, though he boarded and carried two of the largest ships of the enemy, lost only one officer, twenty seamen, and three marines. The Spaniards had above twelve hundred killed and wounded.

The government and nation did not fail to reward the brave defenders of their country. The commander-in-chief was created Earl St. Vincent; and Vice-Admiral Waldegrave was raised to the Irish peerage, by the title of Lord Radstock; each of the other admirals, Thompson and Parker, received the dignity of Baronet; and Nelson was distinguished by the order of the Bath; Captain Calder was knighted, and gold medals were given to all the commanders in the fleet.

Votes of thanks to the admirals, officers, and seamen of the fleet, were passed in both houses of Parliament, of course; when, among the speeches delivered on that occasion, the Duke of Clarence pronounced the following eulogium upon the noble victor, and his valiant compatriots:

"I have examined," said his Royal Highness, "into the naval history of this country, and find, that, at the battle of La Hogue, the French fleet was inferior to ours in number. The circumstances of the present action, the disparity of force—fifteen sail against twenty-seven—speak for themselves. Admiral Boscawen, in 1757, destroyed the French fleet—in 1780, Admiral Rodney, (with whom I myself served in a very inferior situation,) destroyed the Spanish fleet. But, in this engagement, the superiority of force was so greatly in favour of the enemy, that it is distinguished as the most brilliant victory in the naval history of this country, and the

most decided proof of the courage and vigour of our seamen. On every occasion previous to this event, the conduct of Sir John Jervis has been conspicuous. In 1790, at the time of the Spanish armament, Lord Howe testified his high sense of the talents and activity of Sir John Jervis, and of the state and discipline of the fleet, when he received it from his hands. I myself was on board the fleet at that time, and the discipline kept up was most exemplary, and tended greatly to the advantage of the service. Indeed, from the whole of his conduct, I do not hesitate to pronounce, without meaning to give offence to any other, that Sir John Jervis is the first naval officer in his Majesty's service."

The joy which this great achievement produced was eclipsed almost as soon as excited. Although the British flag had waved triumphantly on the main, its glory appeared on the point of sinking for ever; not by the superiority of foreign enemies, but by the machinations of domestic traitors. The emissaries of sedition having found their way into the fleet in different capacities, had no difficulty in spreading discontent among men, who were easily persuaded that their services were overlooked by the Government, and that their grievances could only be redressed by themselves.

Several anonymous letters were addressed to Earl Howe at the beginning of the year, praying that his lordship would use his influence to procure an increase of pay to the seamen, and an improvement in the quality and quantity of their provisions. Unfortunately, the admiral being then laid up by the gout at Bath, no regard was paid to these applications, which the board, to whom they were remitted, considered as proceeding from some insignificant and dissatisfied individuals.

The neglect was sorely felt ; and when the fleet returned to Spithead, on the 31st of March, a correspondence began from ship to ship, which produced a general resolution not to proceed again to sea till their grievances were redressed. This determination was carried into effect on the 14th of April, when Lord Bridport was dispossessed of his cabin, in which the delegates from all the other ships assembled, and gave their orders with equal firmness and moderation. A petition was next drawn up, and presented to the admiral, demanding an increase of wages, and some regulations with respect to the ratio of provisions. They further expressed a hope, that an answer might be given to their petition before they were ordered to sea. This, however, was qualified with the exception, "unless the enemy were known to be at sea."

Meanwhile, a committee of the Admiralty, with Earl Spencer, as first lord, arrived at Portsmouth, and went on board the *Queen Charlotte*, where they held a conference with the delegates, who declared that no arrangement would be considered as final, without the sanction of Parliament, and guaranteed by a royal proclamation of general pardon.

Three days afterwards, the admiral went on board his ship, hoisted his flag, and, on the assurance that all grievances would be redressed, and a general pardon granted, the men returned to their duty.

It was now thought that every cause of complaint had been removed, and that order would be restored. Unfortunately, this was not the case, for when Lord Bridport, on the 7th of May, made signal to weigh anchor, the crew of every ship at St. Helen's refused to obey. A meeting of delegates prepared to assemble on board the *London*, carrying the flag of Admiral

Colpoys, who refused to suffer any of them to come alongside; and gave orders to the marines to that purpose. The marines obeyed, and a skirmish ensued, in which five seamen were killed. The whole ship's company of the London now turned their guns towards the quarter-deck, and threatened to blow all into the water, unless the officers surrendered. To this menace, the admiral and his captain submitted, and were confined in separate cabins.

Such was the perturbed state of things, when Lord Howe, who was always regarded as the seaman's friend, arrived with an act of Parliament, which had been passed to the full extent of all that was demanded.

Having visited the ships at St. Helen's, and those at Spithead, where he was welcomed as the minister of peace, his lordship landed, and was carried by the delegates, upon their shoulders, to the governor's house, amidst the applauses of the populace. The flag of insurrection being now struck, harmony was so completely restored, that what had passed appeared as the remembrance of a terrific dream, and the fleet put again to sea, to encounter the national enemy.

Scarcely, however, had this alarming explosion terminated, when another broke out, with symptoms of greater danger. The fleet, under Admiral Buckner, at the Nore, being dissatisfied with the concessions of Government, set up new claims, of a different description from those of their brethren at Portsmouth; and so preposterous, that a compliance with them would have been the ruin of the navy. The red flag of defiance was, in consequence of the refusal, hoisted on Admiral Buckner's ship, of which, Richard Parker, a petty officer, took the command, with the title of President of the Board of Delegates.

Soon after this, part of Admiral Duncan's fleet came from Yarmouth Roads, and joined the mutineers, who had now twenty-four sail of the line, and thirteen frigates. The insurrection having risen to an alarming height, Earl Spencer, accompanied by some other members of the board of Admiralty, proceeded to Sheerness, but refused to hold a conference with the refractory delegates, who demanded unconditional submission, as a preliminary condition to any intercourse.

Upon this, their lordships returned to town, after signifying to the insurgents that no further concessions than those which the legislature had already made, would be granted, but that, on returning to their duty, an amnesty should take place. The mutineers now began to see their perilous situation, and consulted how to provide for their own security. Some of the most daring, proposed carrying the ships to the enemy; but the very suggestion of such an act of treachery was rejected with abhorrence by the majority. It was then thought, that, by blocking up the river, and stopping trade, they should oblige Government to come to terms. This project was adopted, and all craft, except colliers and neutrals, were kept from passing in or out of the Thames.

A proclamation was now issued, offering a pardon to those mutineers who should return to their duty, by application to Admiral Buckner. This was followed by an act of Parliament for the more effectually restraining all intercourse between the shore and the ships in a state of mutiny. Among the measures adopted in this dangerous crisis, that of taking up the buoys from the mouth of the Thames, and all along the coast, had the best effect in perplexing the operations of the mutineers,

who were thus prevented from sailing up the river, or even from putting to sea, without imminent danger of running aground. Great preparations were likewise made for the defence of Sheerness from any attack that might be meditated against the place, by a set of men now become desperate.

Instead of making any such attempt, the delegates thought proper to try the effect of mediation. Accordingly, the Earl of Northesk, captain of the Monmouth, was ordered by Admiral Parker, as the president was commonly called, to carry a letter to the King, stating the complaints of the seamen, and praying his Majesty's gracious interposition in their favour. The letter was taken into consideration; but no other answer was returned than a peremptory refusal of all that was demanded. This threw the whole mutinous fleet into confusion; and the defection of some of the ships, which ran into Sheerness under the protection of the fortress, dissolved the union altogether. Parker was taken, tried, and executed on board the Sandwich. Others suffered a similar fate; but many, after receiving sentence of death, were respited and pardoned.

Parker was a native of Exeter, where he inherited considerable freehold property, which, some years afterwards, came to his child, on the death of the grandfather. What rendered the conduct of Parker rather extraordinary, was the fact, that, till this unfortunate period of his life, he had been distinguished for his zealous loyalty, and opposition to democratic principles. His passions, however, were strong, and his disposition turbulent, which, with the pride of possessing talents superior to those of his associates, proved his ruin.

It is necessary here to take some notice of what occurred in Parliament at this perilous crisis.

On the 3d of May, the Duke of Bedford brought the subject of the mutiny at Portsmouth before the House of Lords, by putting a question to ministers, whether any communication was intended to be made from his Majesty, on the events that had occurred in the marine department?

Earl Spencer replied in the negative. Upon this, Lord Howe entered into an explicit narrative of what had taken place in the fleet, as far as he was concerned; adding emphatically, that the engagements of the Admiralty with the seamen ought to be ratified by the legislature; and that, if they were not, it would be felt that there was no reliance to be placed on the promises of Government; the consequences of which were more easy to be anticipated than described.

The Duke of Clarence found it expedient to drop a few words only, on so delicate a subject; but his Royal Highness thought that extreme caution was requisite, on the part of Government, and particularly of the legislature, in a business of such vast importance to the nation.

It should seem, from the following letter to Nelson, then in the Mediterranean, that the Duke and his friend entertained different opinions on the conduct of the seamen; the one thinking that they had grievances to complain of, while his Royal Highness thought they had none, or, at least, not any that could palliate their mutinous proceedings:—

“DEAR NELSON,

July 4th, 1797.

“I WAS very happy to find you had executed with so much success and promptitude, Lord St. Vincent's order for the

evacuation of Porto Ferrajo. I feel for poor Oakes on every account, and sincerely wish he was safe at home; and, believe me, I am also much concerned at the state of your own health. After such long and distinguished service, you will of course get leave to return. In answer to your last letter, I can only say, that I hope and believe our confidence is mutual; therefore, in future, no more apology on either side is wanted. Under this idea, I must begin by defending an officer, against whom you have become prejudiced: want of discipline in some of our home squadrons, and the energy of infamous incendiaries, had for many months thrown the whole fleet into a state of democracy and absolute rebellion. I rejoice that the Theseus has fallen into such good hands, and that I shall shortly hear she is in the best order of the Mediterranean fleet. One word more about what has passed at Spithead, Plymouth, and the Nore, and I will never mention the disgraceful business again; but I cannot pass over your remark about short weights and measures. Every officer must know, that, by the old allowance, the men on board the king's ships had more provisions than they could consume, and that they always sold a part; therefore, an increase of provisions was not wanted. I will not hurt your mind by relating the horrid particulars of the late events, but shall conclude the subject by observing, that in your next you will unsay what you have too hastily expressed. I dread nothing, as the Government here appear to pursue proper measures, and I am convinced St. Vincent will keep up his fleet in discipline. Lenity at first is severity at the last. My best wishes and compliments attend your gallant commander: my only acquaintance with him is as an officer. His very great attention and abilities were shewn to me during the Spanish armament; since which time I have, and always shall respect him. You will, I am sure, always distinguish yourself; and I am afraid, from the exorbitant demands of the Directory, that for some time your fleet will be constantly employed. I am happy to find you are at last come over to my way of thinking. As circum-

stances arise, pray write, and ever believe me, dear sir
yours sincerely,

“WILLIAM.”

That the Duke did not stand alone, in the opinion that the complaints of the seamen were for the most part unfounded in fact, appears from Admiral Duncan's speech to his crew, when he found himself deserted by part of his fleet, which went to join the mutineers at the Nore. “My lads,” said the gallant veteran, “I once more call you together with a sorrowful heart, from what I have lately seen—the disaffection of the fleets: I call it disaffection, for the crews have no grievances. To be deserted by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a disgrace which, I believe, never before happened to a British admiral; nor could I have supposed it possible. My greatest comfort, under God, is, that I have been supported by the officers, seamen, and marines of this ship; for which, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, I request you to accept my sincere thanks. I flatter myself, much good may result from your example, by bringing those deluded people to a sense of their duty, which they owe not only their King and country, but to themselves.

“The British navy has ever been the support of that liberty which has been handed down to us by our ancestors, and which, I trust, we shall maintain to the latest posterity; and that can only be done by unanimity and obedience. This ship's company, and others, who have distinguished themselves by their loyalty and good order, deserve to be, and doubtless will be, the favourites of a grateful country. They will also have, from their inward feelings, a comfort which will be lasting, and not like

the floating and false confidence of those who have swerved from their duty.

“It has often been my pride, with you, to look into the Texel, and see a foe which dreaded coming out to meet us : my pride is now humbled indeed ! My feelings are not easily to be expressed ! Our cup has overflowed, and made us wanton. The all-wise Providence has given us this check as a warning, and I hope we shall improve by it. On Him then let us trust, where our only security can be found. I find there are many good men among us ; for my own part, I have had full confidence of all in this ship, and once more beg to express my approbation of your conduct.

“May God, who has thus far conducted you, continue to do so ; and may the British navy, the glory and support of our country, be restored to its wonted splendour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the terror of the world !

“But this can only be effected by a strict adherence to our duty and obedience ; and let us pray that the Almighty God may keep us in the right way of thinking.—God bless you all.”

At an address so unassuming, and so well adapted, by its simplicity and truth, to touch the feelings, the whole ship's crew were dissolved in tears. They declared their resolution to stand by their commander to the last extremity. Encouraged by this example, which was followed by all the remaining ships, the admiral, though reduced in force, resumed his station on the coast of Holland ; from whence he was driven by an autumnal storm into Yarmouth roads. On receiving intelligence that the enemy, amounting to fifteen sail of the line, had taken advantage of his absence, and put to sea ; the

admiral hastened to meet them, and, on the eleventh of October, the two fleets came in sight of each other off Camperdown. A severe battle ensued, which terminated in the capture of the Dutch commander-in-chief, Admiral De Winter, and his Vice-admiral Reyntjies, with seven other ships of the line, and two frigates. The number of killed and wounded on both sides was very great. On the part of the British, the loss of Captain Richard Burgess of the *Ardent* was much lamented by his friends and brother officers. He was a native of Topsham in Devonshire, a county remarkable for the number and renown of its naval heroes. Captain Burgess led the *Ardent* into action in a very gallant and skilful manner; and though the signal was twice made for him to engage, he did not think his ship close enough, but reserved his fire till he was so near that every shot struck the enemy. The *Ardent* was soon after surrounded by five antagonists, among whom was the Dutch admiral. In this situation the captain gloriously fell—but with victory.

Among the captured ships was the *Delft*, of fifty-six guns. Her first-lieutenant was a Dane, of the name of Heiberg, who remained on board to the last. She struck to the Monmouth, after a hard-fought action; and when Mr., now Admiral, Bullen, the first-lieutenant, went on board the prize, he found her much damaged, having many shots through her hull, and her mainmast carried away: two officers, and forty-one of her men, were killed; and one officer, and seventy-five men, were wounded. Mr. Bullen sent the captain, with two officers and ninety men, on board his own ship; and requested Heiberg, who was not wounded, to assist him, with the men under his command, in preventing the *Delft* from sinking. In this they succeeded, till a storm came on,

three days after, which put the vessel in a very perilous situation; and as there was now ten feet water in the hold, her fate soon became evident. Mr. Bullen represented this to Heiberg, telling him that, at a certain signal, he should throw himself, with his men, into the long-boat; and pressed him to follow his example. "But," replied the noble-minded Dane, "how can I leave these unfortunate men?" at the same time pointing to the wounded sailors, who had been brought upon deck, as the hold was already full of water. Mr. Bullen, struck with this generous feeling, cried, "God bless you, my brave fellow, here is my hand; I give you my word, that I will stay here with you." He then caused his own men to leave the sinking ship, and remained behind himself to assist the Dutch. The *Russel* soon sent her boats to their succour, and brought off as many as could leap into them, but few of the wounded could be saved, though the two officers joined their efforts for that purpose, and still continued in the vessel, with three subalterns and about thirty seamen: they were still cherishing the hope that the boats would come time enough to complete the work of deliverance, when the *Delft* went down. Mr. Bullen sprung into the sea, and swam to his ship; but poor Heiberg perished, the victim of heroic humanity.

On the arrival of Admiral Duncan at the Nore, he was visited by the King, who created him a viscount; made the Vice-admiral Onslow, a baronet, and conferred the ancient honour of knight-banneret on Captains Trollope and Fairfax. The thanks of both houses of parliament were also voted to Lord Duncan and his compatriots, for having so nobly redeemed the lustre of the British flag, and defeated the great project that had been

formed, to humble the nation at the feet of republican France.

So sensible was the government of the importance of this victory, that Lord Spencer, in announcing the intended motion of thanks to the admiral, officers, and men of the North-sea fleet, moved that the peers should be summoned; a distinction that had never been shown before on any similar occasion.

The proposal was unanimously acceded to, and the vote passed with acclamation. When Lord Duncan was introduced on the 8th of November, the chancellor communicated to him the resolution of the house in a very elegant speech; to which his lordship replied, that, being unused to public speaking, and overpowered by his feelings, he could only express his sense of the honour conferred on him, by returning thanks for the high distinction he had received, and which would, he said, be ever impressed on his memory.

The Duke of Clarence then moved that the speech of the chancellor, and the noble lord's reply, should be entered upon the journals; which was ordered.

In another quarter, British valour proved this year very unsuccessful; and what rendered the disaster more distressing, was the reflection that many valuable lives were sacrificed without reason, upon an unprofitable, and, as it appeared, an impracticable object. After the victory off Cape St. Vincent, Rear-admiral Nelson was chiefly employed in the blockade of Cadiz, where he distinguished himself by bombarding the place, and venturing his person in attacks with his boats upon the Spanish vessels in the harbour. This harassing warfare, however, did not well suit the enterprising spirit of Nelson, who therefore suggested to Earl St. Vincent a project for the capture

of the island of Teneriffe. His lordship approved of the plan, and placed at the disposal of the rear-admiral, seven ships and one thousand marines. On the 15th of July, this squadron came before the port of Santa Cruz, and took possession of the town; but they had scarce done so, when it was found that the English military force was neither able to carry the citadel, nor to encounter the troops that were on the march from different parts of the island. It was, therefore, necessary for the invaders to make good their retreat; but here again they found themselves embarrassed, for the surf on the beach had so damaged the boats, that an embarkation was next to impossible. In this situation they were summoned to surrender; but Captain Trowbridge, who headed the party, refused, and declared that he would not capitulate as long as he had a man left alive. The Spanish governor then sent a message to the captain, stating, that, to spare the effusion of blood, facilities should be provided for conveying himself and his people to their ships. The offer was accepted, and the generous Spaniard not only furnished boats, but supplied them with wine and provisions. It is painful to record, that not the least notice was taken of this act of liberality, in the admiral's despatches to Government. The loss sustained in this rash enterprise, equalled that of the battle off Cape St. Vincent. Among the slain was the captain, Richard Bowen, of the *Terpsichore*, one of the best officers in the service. He was a native of Ilfracombe in Devonshire, where in the parish church is a monument erected to his memory, by a vote of parliament. Admiral Nelson, while on shore, had his arm so shattered by a cannon ball, that amputation became indispensable. To these disasters must be added the melancholy fate of Lieu-

tenant Gibson, commander of the Fox, cutter, who with his whole crew perished by a shot fired from the fort, which sunk the vessel in an instant. Expeditions of this daring kind are highly extolled, when they prove successful; but considering the hazardous nature of them, and the waste of valuable lives with which they are attended, a prudent commander will pause before he gives his consent to such desperate undertakings. So, at least, thought that great and good officer, Collingwood, who never would encourage any dashing operations, where the point to be gained was trivial and the loss of life certain.

In consequence of the injuries he had suffered, Admiral Nelson immediately returned to England, where he met with a most sympathetic reception from his steady friend the Duke of Clarence. His Royal Highness was at Bushy Park, of which he had just been appointed ranger, on the death of the dowager Countess of Guildford, when the intelligence of the arrival of Nelson drew him away from the improvements which he was superintending, to greet and console the associate of his former years. The interview, after so long an absence, and under such circumstances, was affecting: but there is a spirit in man which will sustain his infirmity; and the wounds of the brave are soon healed, because the mind, by its resolution, gives efficacy to means, which would, in many cases, without its aid, be wholly inert. The recovery of Nelson was so rapid, that, in a short time, he was able to accompany his illustrious friend to court, where he presented to the King a memorial of his services, which of course did not go unrewarded.

As it was now felt more than ever, if possible, that the bulwark of the nation is the British navy; and as the recent attempts to disorganize that great department had

shewn how easy it might be to render this defence useless; the Sovereign wisely resolved to display the importance of the marine service in one view, by a naval procession to the metropolitan cathedral.

The nineteenth of December was the day fixed for this great solemnity, and fortunately the weather proved uncommonly fine for that time of the year, which rendered the spectacle particularly brilliant and impressive.

Long before daylight, the houses in the streets through which the procession was to pass, were filled with spectators, many of whom came from a considerable distance, during the night. About seven o'clock the military moved to their respective stations. The Foot Guards took the duty from St. James's to Temple Bar, inside of which the streets were lined by the city militia, the East India volunteers, and several other corps of the same description. At eight o'clock, the seamen and marines, chosen to escort the colours, formed before the Admiralty. The procession began with two flags taken from the French—three from the Spaniards—and four from the Dutch. The colours were carried on artillery waggons, each set attended by a party of lieutenants on foot, who had served in the several engagements in which they were won.

A large detachment of marines, with music, followed; and the whole corps took their stations in the cathedral, from the west door to the choir. The following admirals brought up the rear of this part of the procession—Viscount Duncan, Sir Charles Thompson, Sir Richard Onslow, Sir Alan Gardner, Sir Thomas Pasley, Sir Roger Curtis, Sir Horatio Nelson, Lord Hugh Seymour, Caldwell, Waldegrave, Hamilton, Goodall, Young,

Lindsay, Gambier, Bazeley, and Captain Sir Henry Trollope.

This was certainly the most interesting part of the spectacle; and the dignified deportment of the gallant sons of the ocean produced a powerful effect upon the beholders.

The Lords and Commons followed in order; the Chancellor in the rear of the one, and the Speaker in that of the other.

These parts of the procession reached the cathedral about nine; and, soon after ten, the firing of the Park guns announced that their Majesties had entered their carriages—preceded by the Dukes of Gloucester, York, and Clarence, with their respective suites.

At Temple Bar, the usual formalities took place, on the entrance of the King into the city; and then the Lord Mayor, with the municipal authorities, by deputation, rode in their robes, bareheaded, before their Majesties, to St. Paul's.

When the procession reached the church, the lieutenants, taking the flags from the waggons, attended by the seamen and marines, divided into two lines, for the captains to pass to their seats in the galleries.

The colours were carried in procession, with martial music, to the middle of the dome, where they were placed in a circle. The Princesses, with the Dukes of York and Clarence, Prince Ernest, and the Duke of Gloucester, formed a crescent within the church; and opposite to their Royal Highnesses, were the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Admirals, waiting to receive their Majesties. The Common Council of London, in their mazarine gowns, were ranged, with

their ladies, in two galleries, which filled the semicircle of the dome.

The King, on his alighting at the church, was received by the Bishops of London and Lincoln, who walked one on each side, preceded by the heralds at arms, and prebendaries of the church. The Queen, followed with her suit, and the other members of the Royal Family, with their attendants, closed the procession. On their arrival within the circle, the colours were lowered; and the royal party made their obeisances to the company assembled, which were returned with acclamations.

The service then began; and, at the end of the first lesson, the flag-officers entered in two divisions, right and left of the King's chair, the ends of the flags supported by those officers who immediately followed the bearers in regular succession, advancing to the altar to deposit the naval trophies. The King was observed to be much affected by this ceremony, and the whole assembly participated in his feelings.

The Bishop of Lincoln, dean of St. Paul's, then preached an appropriate sermon from the first three verses of the twenty-third of the second book of Samuel. The whole concluded with the anthem that had been sung when Queen Anne went to St. Paul's, to return thanks for the victories gained by the immortal Marlborough.

In returning, the order of the procession was reversed, their Majesties going first.

The naval exploits celebrated in this scenic display were those of Lord Howe, on the 1st of June, 1794—of Lord Hotham, on the 14th of March, 1795—of Lord Bridport, on the 23d of June, 1795—of Lord St. Vincent, on the 14th of February, 1797—of Rear Admiral Harvey,

at Trinidad, the 17th of February, 1797—of Lord Keith, at the Cape of Good Hope, the 17th of August—and of Lord Duncan, the 11th of October, 1797.

Some days after this spectacle, the King sat to Sir William Beechy, the painter, and not to Barry, as some publications have stated. In the course of conversation, his Majesty asked the artist whether he had seen the procession? Sir William said, he had been favoured with a fine view of the whole line, from an excellent situation in Ludgate Street. The King answered, "Then you had the advantage of me; for I could only see the coachman and his horses."

This year witnessed a painful change in the Royal Family, by the marriage of the elder Princess to the Prince of Wurtemberg, at St. James's, on the 18th of May. In the ceremonial, the Duke of Clarence supported his royal sister; but the scene was a very affecting one, and the King and Queen could not suppress their tears at a separation, which they had in vain endeavoured to prevent. The Princess soon after left England, and saw her parents no more.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1797 to 1800.

THE autumnal session of Parliament, which met on the 22d of November, 1797, was rendered remarkable by the secession of the members of the opposition in both houses. Mr. Fox justified this conduct of himself and his friends, by saying, that their attendance could serve no other purpose than that of holding out false hopes to the people.

This, to say the least of it, was dangerous doctrine, when the French were making immense preparations for a landing upon our shores—when the discontent in our fleets had but just been allayed—when the agents of the enemy were still actively employed in disseminating revolutionary principles—and especially when Ireland was known to be on the eve of rebellion.

Such was the state of the nation at this gloomy period; notwithstanding which, and the increasing burden of a taxation upon property, the spirit of loyalty and patriotism was never more conspicuous, energetic, and general, than when every thing around appeared calculated to create despondency.

The lofty pride of the nation, however, was roused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm by the threats of the French to destroy the modern Carthage, as England was now termed in the vocabulary of the imitators of republican Rome. In one point, certainly, the parallel

might be just, for the enmity of the two nations now displayed itself in equal resolution on both sides, with this difference only, that, while the French breathed nothing but conquest and extermination, their opponents indignantly arrayed themselves for defence only. Numbers who had, at the outset, expressed a warm concern for the revolutionary cause, under an idea that its success would be beneficial to France and to mankind, were now so disgusted with the sanguinary and tyrannical conduct of the regicides, that they gladly entered the associations which were formed in every corner of the kingdom, for the repulsion of a foe, faithless in his engagements, and cruel in his conquests.

The war, though disastrous, had completely developed the character of the enemy, and disclosed his objects; so that there was not a man gifted with reason, and honest in the use of it, but felt convinced of the necessity of arming for the preservation of the national independence. It was the cause of every individual member of the community, high and low, rich and poor, prince and peasant: as such it was universally understood, and as such it was acknowledged and acted upon throughout Great Britain, by the old and young, with one heart and one mind, unalloyed by any selfish ideas, or party spirit.

Amidst this display of genuine patriotism, one dark spot appeared, to depress the grandeur and tarnish the glory of the scene. While every other part of the empire exhibited a spirit of eager unanimity at the prospect of being called upon to resist the common enemy, Ireland alone formed a melancholy exception, and, at the very moment when the whole British coast, from the Land's End, in the west, to the Orkneys,

presented a circumvallation of living defence against the invader, the sister isle was prepared to receive him, and join his standard. So impatient, indeed, were the Irish conspirators, that, without waiting for the arrival of their republican friends and liberators, they broke out into open rebellion in the middle of May, and were not joined by any part of the promised force from France till the month of August. This precipitancy in the one, and delay of the other, proved essentially beneficial to the royal cause, by defeating the insurgents in detail, and ultimately reducing them to despair by the capture of the whole foreign army of auxiliaries.

During these afflicting scenes, the Duke of Clarence actively employed himself in training a body of Yeomanry, consisting of substantial farmers, and other respectable persons, in the hundred of Spelthorne, to which Bushy Park belongs. Stimulated by the example and flattered by the attention of their illustrious commander, the Spelthorne corps soon obtained a very high distinction, and the Duke declared that he should not fear to lead his gallant men, young as they were, into the front of an action. In one of his animating addresses, he said, "Wherever you are, I shall be ; and that the issue will be glory, cannot admit of a doubt."

But, fortunately, their services were not required in the field of battle. The French government had now another object in view ; and, from the immense preparations then making, it was not difficult to divine the destination of the expedition. Buonaparte himself, aptly enough, designated the naval and military force that was placed under his command, as "the right wing of the army of England." On the 20th of May, 1798, he left Toulon, with fifty thousand men, and the fleet, after passing

Sicily was joined by Admiral Brueys, with a squadron of Venetian ships of war from Corfu. That officer then hoisted his flag, as commander-in-chief, on board the *Orient*, of one hundred and twenty guns. After a run of eighteen days, this formidable armament, now swelled to three hundred sail, including men of war and transports, appeared off Malta, of which island, hitherto deemed impregnable, instant possession was taken, not by valour, but through treachery. This valuable post being secured, the fleet again set sail, and on the 30th of June came to anchor in the roads of Alexandria.

Buonaparte, well knowing that his route could not escape British vigilance, disembarked his troops immediately, with the intention also of securing the fleet in the port of Alexandria. Here, however, he was disappointed, for the ships drew too much water to admit of their passage over the bar, even without their stores and artillery. Under such circumstances, he ought to have sent his large ships to Malta, in which case his frigates and lighter vessels might have been sheltered from any other attack than that of boats, which even Nelson would hardly have attempted. Instead of adopting this obvious measure of precaution, the commander moored his fleet in an open bay, presenting, indeed, a formidable battery seaward, but one that was far from being a sure defence; as the event proved, by the facility with which the English ships passed within-side of the French, who from their position were thus exposed to a double fire. According to Denon, who witnessed the action from the shore, "Buonaparte, wishing to bring the fleet into the harbour of Alexandria, offered two thousand sequins to any one who should accomplish it; and it was said, that several cap-

tains of merchantmen had sounded, and found a passage for the whole into the old harbour. The evil genius of France, however, counselled and persuaded the admiral to moor his ships in the bay of Aboukir, and thus to change in one day the result of a long train of successes." Thus concludes the French artist: "We found that our situation was altered, and that, separated from the mother country, we were become the inhabitants of a distant colony, where we should be obliged to depend on our own resources for subsistence until the peace. We learned, in short, that the English fleet had surrounded our line, which was not moored sufficiently near to the land to be protected by the batteries; and that the enemy, formed in a double line, had attacked our ships one after the other, and had by this manœuvre prevented them from acting in concert, rendering one half of the fleet a witness of the destruction of the other half. We learned, lastly, that the first of August had broken the unity of our forces; and that the destruction of our fleet, by which the lustre of our glory was tarnished, had restored to the enemy the empire of the Mediterranean; an empire which had been wrested from them by the matchless exploits of our armies, and which could only have been secured to us by the existence of our ships of war."

This involuntary encomium from an enemy forcibly illustrates the emphatic observation of Nelson, that the battle of the Nile was not a victory, but a conquest. It was so in the fullest sense of the word, by totally changing the aspect of the war, and rousing the torpid energies of all the great European powers, including even the Ottoman, to vigorous exertion against French domination. But it merits a remark, that the expedition

of Buonaparte, and its failure, had an effect nearer home. Had the vast naval and military force been directed, not to the subjugation of Egypt, but the invasion of Ireland, the consequences might have proved fatal to the sovereignty of Britain over that country. The destruction of the fleet in the bay of Aboukir, and the segregation of the army from France, put an end to the hopes of adding Ireland to the republic, as well as to the design of proceeding to India by the way of Egypt; both which objects, however distinct and extravagant they might appear to the superficial observer, were certainly contemplated by the Directory, in this gigantic enterprise. Boulay Paty, the French minister of marines, before the news arrived of the misfortune that had occurred on the coast of Egypt, urged, in the council of five hundred, the necessity of an increase of the navy. "If," said he, "on the one side, Alexander formerly traced out the route of an army by land to the Indies; if Seleucus Nicanor marched to the Ganges; if even speculations of Indian commerce point out a course of glory to the armies of liberty; if at this moment Egypt, Arabia, and Persia behold the Gauls carrying liberty to the two Indies, by giving freedom to Bengal; on the other side, twenty barbarous nations point out the route to England, and, by their success, the various places for a descent upon the British isles."

The triumph of Nelson, however, not only saved Ireland, but India, from the blessing of French liberation, by cutting off all the reinforcements and supplies necessary for the prosecution of the ulterior object of Buonaparte, who, instead of sailing down the Arabian gulf, was compelled to waste his time and resources in fruitless combats with the sons of the desert.

Of this unparalleled victory, the great commander wrote a minute account to the Duke of Clarence ; but unfortunately, the interesting narrative fell into the hands of the French, when Captain Thompson of the *Leander* was compelled to strike to the *Genereux*. In a subsequent letter from Naples, Nelson says :

“ I knew my letter to your Royal Highness, by the *Leander*, was lost, by the unfortunate capture of that ship, and I trust you will forgive my not writing so much as my inclination in truth prompts me to do : but I find my left hand is fully employed in not only the business of the squadron, but also in working in the good cause in this country. The wind moderates, and I am going off to try and sail. My heart is true to the good cause, and I wish to approve myself a faithful servant to the best of masters. May God bless your Royal Highness, is the sincere prayer of your attached and affectionate—NELSON.”

In November following, Nelson sent a letter to the Duke, by Captain, now Admiral, Sir Thomas Hardy :—

“ I beg leave to present to your Royal Highness, Captain Hardy, late of the *Foudroyant*, an officer of the most distinguished merit, and therefore highly worthy of your notice. He will tell you of my arduous work in this country, and that all my anxiety is at present occasioned by the desire of possessing Malta. But I fear, notwithstanding my exertions, that I shall not get any British troops from Minorca. I am impatiently waiting the arrival of General Fox, and hope he will not consider the order for the removal of one or two regiments, of such great consequence as the reduction of Malta, by keeping them for two months longer in the Mediterranean. On the one hand, they must, in England,

or on the Continent, be like a drop of water in the ocean. By staying here, and being employed, they would liberate us from our enemy close to our door, gratify the Emperor of Russia, protect our Levant trade, and relieve a squadron of our ships from this service ; besides giving us one eighty-gun ship, two forty-gun frigates, a Maltese new ship of the line ready for sea, and two frigates. With these in the scale, I cannot comprehend how a moment can be lost in deciding ; but I find few think as I do. To obey orders, is all perfection—to serve my King, and to destroy the French, I consider as the great order of all, from which little ones spring ; and if one of these militate against it, (for who can tell exactly at a distance,) I go back, and obey the great order and object—to down, down, with the d——d French villains. Excuse my warmth, but my blood boils at the name of a Frenchman. I hate them all, royalists and republicans.”

Malta, however, was added to the British empire two years afterwards.

The only officer of superior rank who fell in this great action, was Captain Westcott, of the *Majestic*. His father was a baker at Honiton, in Devonshire ; which profession leading him to a connexion with the millers, young Westcott used frequently to be sent to the mill. Once, when there, an accident happened to the machinery by the breaking of a rope ; and neither the owner, nor any of his men, being equal to the task of repairing, Westcott offered to use his skill in splicing it, although attended with danger and difficulty. His offer was accepted ; and the job was executed with such nicety, that the miller told him, “ he was fit for a sailor, since he could splice a rope so well ;” adding, that “ if he

should ever have any inclination to go to sea, he would endeavour to get him a birth." Accordingly, an opportunity presented itself, which the lad embraced, and began his career as a cabin-boy. His activity and good behaviour soon introduced him among the midshipmen; after which, he rose rapidly, by his merit, till he obtained the rank of post-captain. The esteem in which the inhabitants of Honiton held him and his family was affectionately manifested on the intelligence of his death. The ringing of bells, and illuminations, were omitted, out of respect to his memory.

On the 14th of November, this year, Prince Edward landed at Portsmouth, from North America, where, and in the East Indies, he had been actively employed ever since the commencement of the war. Shortly after his arrival, his Royal Highness was advanced to the peerage, by the title of Duke of Kent; and, at the same time, his brother, Prince Ernest, was created Duke of Cumberland.

Why these honours, which, in former reigns, were usually bestowed as soon as the royal personages came of age, should, in the present case, have been so long withheld, cannot well be accounted for, unless upon the supposition that the delay arose from an unwillingness to increase the public burdens, by parliamentary grants for the support of the titles. Suitable settlements now became indispensable for that purpose, and, accordingly, an annuity of twelve thousand pounds was voted, without hesitation, by the House of Commons, to each of the newly created Royal Dukes.

Soon after this, the Duke of Clarence obtained the full rank of Admiral, by the rules of service, and not as a peculiar mark of paternal favour or approbation. In vain were his applications made to the ministry, and the

board of Admiralty, for employment at sea; and to all his personal solicitations and written remonstrances, the King either remained silent, or returned frigid answers of unexplained refusal.

It was nearly the same with the Prince of Wales. When every part of Great Britain presented an armed force to repel invasion, and when Ireland was in open rebellion, the Prince strove in vain for the privilege, which he conceived himself entitled to by his birth and station, of standing forth at the head of an army, in defence of the crown he was destined to wear, and of the rights and liberties he was born to maintain. His repeated demands were met by a positive denial, and his entreaties were put off with evasive excuses. Under the mortification which he felt at this treatment, it is said that he either wrote, or caused to be written, a letter to the King, in the following terms:—

“SIR,—I have, from various considerations of duty and respect, delayed to the latest hour obtruding myself, by a direct application to your Majesty; and it is now with an earnestness with which I never before ventured to approach you, Sir, that I presume to throw myself at your feet, and to implore your gracious attention to the humble sentiments I offer in this letter.

“The serious and awful crisis in which this country now stands, calls for the united efforts of every British arm, in the defence of all that can be dear to Englishmen; and it is with glowing pride that I behold the prevalence of this sentiment through every part of your Majesty’s kingdom.

“Whatever may, some time back, have been your Majesty’s objections to my being in the way of actual service; yet, at a crisis like this, unexampled in our

history—when every subject in the realm is eagerly seeking for, and has his post assigned him; those objections will, I humbly trust, yield to the pressure of the times, and your Majesty will be graciously pleased to call me forth to a station wherein I may prove myself worthy of the confidence of my country, and of the high rank I hold in it, by staking my life in its defence: death would be preferable to being marked as the *only man* that was not suffered to come forth on such an occasion.

“Should it be my fate to fall in so glorious a contest, no injury could arise to the line of succession, on account of the number happily remaining of your Majesty’s children. At the same time, were there fifty princes, or, were I the single one, it would, in my humble judgment, be equally incumbent on them, or me, to stand foremost in the ranks of danger at so decisive a period as the present.

“I am the more induced to confide, that your Majesty’s goodness will comply with this humble petition, from the conviction I feel, that, had similar circumstances prevailed in the reign of the late king, when your Majesty was Prince of Wales, you would have panted, Sir, for the opportunity I now so earnestly covet. I know your Majesty, and am fixed in this belief; and I should hold myself unworthy of my descent and station, if a tamer impulse could now possess me. Still more to justify this confidence, allow me to recall to your Majesty’s recollection the expressions you were graciously pleased to use, when I solicited foreign service, upon my first coming into the army. They were, Sir, that your Majesty did not then see the opportunity for it; but that if any thing was to arise at home, I ought to be one of the first and foremost.

“ My character with the nation, my honour, my future fame, and prospects in life, are now all at stake. I therefore supplicate your Majesty to afford me those means for their preservation, which affection for my country, and devotion to my sovereign, would have prompted me to solicit, even though my birth and station had not rendered it my duty to claim them. I presume in no respect to prescribe to your Majesty the mode of being employed : what I humbly, but most earnestly solicit, is, the certainty of active service, in such a character as to your Majesty shall seem fit.”

The appeal to his Majesty's own feelings, in case he had been so neglected when Prince of Wales, was rather unfortunate. It reminded him of the partiality of the king, his grandfather, to his second son, in preference to the heir-apparent, when the last effort was made to restore the line of Stuart. Frederick Prince of Wales, though so nearly concerned, was thrown into the shade and depreciated, that all the glory of extinguishing the rebellion might redound to William, Duke of Cumberland, who, whatever might be his merits, certainly was in no respect superior to his brother, either in talents or virtues.

The present allusion, therefore, though incidental only to that portion of the family history, was not calculated to draw the King from his purpose ; inasmuch as it conveyed a reflection upon his Majesty, by comparing his conduct to that of George the Second, whose memory he never held in much veneration.

A circumstance occurred shortly after this, which tended still more to mortify the spirits of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence.

Government having been assured that the appearance

of a naval and military force on the coast of Holland, would produce a general rising in that country against the French, prepared a large armament, which was joined at the Helder by a body of Russians. That part of the enterprise which was directed to the capture of the Dutch fleet in the Texel, succeeded without bloodshed, by the voluntary surrender of all the ships of war at the first summons to Admiral Mitchell, who commanded on this occasion in the room of Lord Duncan. But on land, the Duke of York, who had the entire command of the allied army, was less fortunate, owing to the vigour of the French, and the apathy of the Dutch ; so that his Royal Highness found himself under the necessity of negotiating with the enemy for a suspension of hostilities, and an evacuation of the country.

Thus terminated an expedition, upon which much expectation had been founded ; and which, perhaps, might have had a different turn, but for the dilatory conduct of the executive departments. During the preparations, it was thought that, as the Duke of York was to have the command of the forces, his brother would have hoisted his flag, and shared the glory of the service. The opportunity favoured such an appointment ; but the very suggestion of it was rejected, and thus the Royal Admiral lost the object of his laudable ambition, that of receiving the thanks of Parliament and his country.

This marked distinction in the treatment of the two brothers surprised all, and could be accounted for by few, even of those who were possessed of the best means of information. As to the Prince, there were, no doubt, paramount reasons of state for not risking his person in foreign service, especially at such a crisis : but the case

was far otherwise with the Duke of Clarence, whose graduation in the navy during a period of twenty years gave him a right to complain, that while his juniors were gaining trophies, and immortalizing their names, his honours were merely nominal, and even the laurels of his youth were now faded, or become painful in the remembrance. That the main cause of this proscription was of a political nature, cannot be doubted; and the present history affords a general proof of the danger accruing to princes becoming the associates of party. Such connexions are always injurious to the royal personages who enter into them, by taking away that lofty spirit of independence, which can alone render public character influential to the national welfare. Instead of enjoying the esteem and confidence of the entire community, the illustrious partisans are extravagantly flattered by one division, and viewed with suspicious jealousy by the other. No person of his high station ever experienced this more than the Prince of Wales; and yet such was the force of habit, and the attraction of early friendship, that he could not disentangle himself from the trammels.

At this very period his Royal Highness resumed, after a secession of five or six years, his station as the head of the opposition; so far, at least, as to espouse the wild project of organizing a new administration, of which neither Pitt nor Fox should form a part. The scheme, however, perished in embryo, but not without being made the subject of much public discussion at tavern meetings, and other political coteries. The worst of its effects was a wider separation of the Sovereign from his sons, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1798 TO 1800.

THE great subject which at this time occupied public attention was the projected legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland. This measure was recommended first to the Irish Parliament, by the Lord Lieutenant, at the opening of the session, January 22, 1799; and to each of the two houses here, four days afterwards, in a message from the King, expressing his wish that means might be provided in both kingdoms for their common security, and of consolidating, as far as possible, into one firm and lasting fabric, the strength, the power, and the resources of the British empire.

In England the proposed union was favourably entertained, both in and out of parliament. The resolutions brought forward by the ministers were vigorously opposed by Mr. (now Lord) Grey and Mr. Sheridan; but the speeches of those orators made so little impression, that in the division only fifteen voices could be numbered against the proposition. In the house of lords, the triumph of Government was still more complete; the measure being carried without any division, though not without debate. Among its supporters, the bishop of Landaff, Dr. Watson, particularly distinguished himself. The learned prelate, in the course of his elaborate speech, took the oppor-

tunity of observing, that when the late Duke of Rutland was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, certain propositions were brought forward in parliament, which certainly met with his approbation. Writing at that time to the noble Duke upon the subject of them, he observed, that his Grace would immortalize his name, and the names of all who acted with him, if he could but accomplish a legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland. The Duke in his answer used these words, "I perfectly approve of your idea concerning a union : but I must tell you, that any man who could be found bold enough to propose such a measure here at this time, would be tarred and feathered."

The bishop concluded with predicting, "that the union, if carried, would enrich Ireland, without impoverishing Great Britain ; and thus render both countries the most powerful in the world."

It was not easy, however, to persuade the Irish people that such would be the beneficial effects of the proposed sacrifice of their shadowy independence. National pride is not always to be considered as the sign of true patriotism. . . .

In the present instance, the effervescent zeal of the Irish against the union had the appearance of keen sensibility for the honour of their country. Previous to the meeting of the parliament of that kingdom, public associations were formed, the object of which was, to prevent the consolidation of the two legislatures, and to instruct their representatives to oppose any such measure in every stage of its progress.

Accordingly, after a contest in which all the power of eloquence, and all the virulence of passion, were called into exercise, the anti-unionists defeated ministers by

the small majority of five votes—the numbers on the proposed address being one hundred and six for the clause in favour of the measure, and one hundred and eleven against it.

The ebullition of joy excited by this pitiful triumph, where the chances were so nearly balanced, did little credit to the judgment or the feelings of the people. The unionists were vilified and insulted as the enemies of their country; while the popular orators, who had distinguished themselves by their speeches in parliament, were lauded with the most extravagant panegyric, as genuine patriots, who had saved Ireland from destruction. Meanwhile, men of sober minds, and serious reflection, took a larger view of things; and, therefore, were not surprised when, shortly after the subsidence of this ferment, they saw the political current pursuing an opposite direction, and the union carried triumphantly through the same Parliament by which it had been proscribed. On the 2d of July, 1800, the royal assent was given to the bill for incorporating the two kingdoms, the first day of the ensuing year being fixed as the commencement of the new era.

This, unquestionably, was a great victory; and the management by which it was effected, displayed masterly skill and penetration in the application of means for removing those obstacles, and subduing those prejudices, which ordinary men would have regarded as insurmountable.

The same motive which governed and impelled the opponents of the union, was now drawn effectually to its service, by the magical influence of that power which softens the sternest will, and converts the declared enemy into an effectual assistant:—

“ Ille admirans venerabile donum
Fatalis virgæ.”

“ The rich oblation reconciles the god,
Who bows with reverence to the golden rod.”

But a change from one extreme to another, and that within so small a space of time, will not appear extraordinary, if the following picture of that part of Ireland, bordering on the capital, be taken as a specimen of the rest. It was written in a private letter to a friend, just before the union :—

“ I am just returned,” says the writer, “ from an excursion through the counties of Dublin, Kildare, and Carlow ; and in which, I am sorry to say, I found the vestiges of the late rebellion, not more visible in the demolition and burning of houses and villages, than in the conversation, sentiments, and character of the inhabitants. I had known those counties, and the dispositions and manners of their people, long before the commencement of the rebellion. I had known them to be gentle, humane, and possessed, perhaps, of more of the milk of human kindness than the lower order of people in most countries possess. I found them, if it be fair to give a general character of the people from the experience of an individual, with quite a new set of feelings : they had become familiar with cruelty ; they could talk of torture and of death—not the death of an individual, but the slaughter of thousands—with the same apathy and listlessness as they would have spoken of any every-day incident. Death and suffering, indeed, seemed for them to have lost all their horror ; and I have heard them relate the fall of hundreds

of their townsmen with a degree of circumstantial and cool accuracy, which proved that they felt in the relation the most perfect indifference. It was at a time when the assizes were holden in these counties, that I happened to visit them. Some convictions had taken place, and the criminals were executed during my stay. On former occasions of this kind, an execution would have set the town and its vicinity in motion, and have excited the lamentations and the curiosity of the peasantry for several miles round. Now, the most dreadful sentence which human laws can inflict was executed by the sheriff and his officers, with as little bustle and interest as would have attended his giving possession of a farmhouse, under an ejectment. The unfortunate victim of offended justice was drawn to the place of suffering, through a county-town, and scarcely attracted in his progress the attention of a single passenger ; or excited, in one instance, those expressions of pity or of sympathy, which are so natural, and so common, on such solemn occasions, in countries where the feelings of humanity have not been blunted by the frequency of scenes of still greater horror.

“ It has been the custom of these counties, since the rebellion, to exhibit to public view the heads of such as have suffered capital punishment for the part they took in those disturbances, by fixing them up in some conspicuous situation. On the gaol of Athy are fixed two of those heads ; but they are placed at such a height as not to shock the passenger by too near a view of human degradation in this state of corruption. The front gate of the new prison, however, which they have erected in Carlow, is not more than fifteen feet high, and, at that short distance from the traveller’s eye, are exhi-

bited these disgusting views of death in its most hideous form, familiarizing the mind of the passing peasant to the most horrid of all spectacles; and blunting in him those feelings of commiseration for human suffering, on which must always depend, in a great measure, the virtues of the populace. How far they tend to produce this effect, may be learned by the following anecdote:—

“While I was contemplating with horror this group of dreadful objects, in all of which, except one, you might distinctly trace the features, and mark the expression of the agonies of death, I asked a townsman who was passing, whether these heads had been all put up at the same time? and, on being told they were, I observed, it was strange that one of them was nearly stripped of flesh, while the others appeared yet perfect. He answered, ‘Sir, that head is the head of Mr. Keefe, of Ballyva. He was lying in a putrid fever when he was taken away by the military, and, after a short trial by a court-martial, was executed! They say it is because his flesh was putrid from his illness, that the skull has so soon been left bare; and, as to the jaw, sir, which, you may observe, is broken and hanging down, that was broken by some boys of the town, who amused themselves in throwing stones at it!’—I turned away with disgust from this shocking tale. What morals, said I, what feeling, what humanity, what virtue, can exist among a people, where, to insult the miserable remains of mortality, is the amusement of the populace?

“Nor is it merely among the lower order of the people that this spirit of ferocity has been excited and kept alive in Ireland. On the same day in which the

above conversation took place, I happened to dine in company with some of the first people of the town: there were some strangers present besides myself, who, after dinner, turned the conversation to the topic of these heads. It was observed by one stranger, that it was a violation of public decorum to obtrude such horrid spectacles so near the eye and observation of the passenger; by another, that it tended to harden and brutalize the public mind; and, by a third, that it was impolitic, now that the rebellion was completely crushed, to keep alive the animosity of party, by such public and disgusting monuments of crime and punishment: better would it be, he observed, to obliterate every remembrance of what was passed, by removing from the eye and ear of the public whatever could revive that recollection, or perpetuate sentiments which might again kindle into partial insurrection. ‘Sir,’ said one gentleman of the town, who seemed to speak the sense of his countrymen, ‘I wish we had more heads up, if it were likely they could again rouse the villains to insurrection; for we are fully able to put them down—and the more of them we despatch the better.’

“Such are the principles, and such the feelings, which seem to actuate every description of men, in a country once remarkable for good-nature, affection, and humanity.”

Of the other parliamentary business during this session, the only one in which we find that the Duke of Clarence particularly interested himself, was the African trade. On the 9th of May, 1799, his Royal Highness rose, and said, “It had been his intention to have submitted a motion to their lordships on the subject of the slave trade; but learning, since he came down to the house, from the

noble secretary of state, that, in fact, his motion would be unnecessary, he should reserve himself for some other opportunity; he trusted, however, that counsel would be heard at their lordships' bar, on the part of the West India planters and merchants, who were entitled to have every consideration paid to their interests which the house could bestow.

On the 5th of July, a bill was brought in to prohibit the trading for slaves on the coast of Africa, within certain limits. The object of the bill was said to be the removal of certain obstacles which that traffic threw in the way of the colony of Sierra Leone—an establishment formed with a view to the civilization of Africa; but which the West India proprietors and merchants, interested in the trade, considered as introductory to its total abolition.

In that view it was taken up by the Duke of Clarence, who, therefore, came armed with a great mass of documentary evidence, which he placed in the strongest light possible against all that had been brought forward by the abolitionists. His Royal Highness argued, that, from the gross barbarism of the Africans on the slave-coast, the transportation of those wretched beings to the West Indies was to themselves a blessing, instead of an evil; inasmuch as it saved them from certain destruction, and placed them in a state of comfort; that the colonies could not subsist without regular supplies; and that, as there was a capital of more than eighty millions employed by our merchants in the plantations, the extinction of the trade must be attended with the ruin of commerce, and consequently of the country; while the negroes, instead of being benefited, would be in a worse condition than ever. His Royal Highness detailed at great length

the tonnage of shipping, the mode of procuring the slaves, and their treatment in what was called the middle passage. He also took a review of what had been stated respecting the inhuman conduct of the traders in slaves, and of the purchasers of them in the colonies.

Lord Grenville, after expressing his admiration of the illustrious personage who had just spoken, observed, that between him and his Royal Highness there could be personally no debate, because between them there was no equality.

This extraordinary, and certainly very unconstitutional, doctrine, produced a call to order from the Earl of Romney; who said, that he agreed with the noble secretary of state that, personally, there was no equality between the illustrious Prince and any other member of that house; yet, that he always understood, as a peer, he stood in that house on a perfect equality with any personage in it, as to the right of speaking.

Lord Thurlow, also, to the same effect, said—I wish to have it clearly understood, whether it is the constitution of this house that we are unequal in our rights to speak here. I am one of the lowest, in point of rank; I contend not for superiority of talent, or for preference, or for any consideration whatever; but I claim to be exactly equal, not only to the illustrious personage who has just spoken, and whom their lordships had heard with so much pleasure, but also with the Prince of Wales, if he were present, and acting as a peer of Parliament. “I know,” said the noble and learned lord, “of no difference between peers of Parliament, considered in their legislative character;

and I do think that the lowest in rank in the house, is equal to the highest, while we are debating. If rank or talent created an inequality in our rights to speak in this house, the illustrious personage who has just spoken would have a higher right than I pretend to have ; but I do claim, for my humble self, an equality with every Prince of the blood, or any other who has a seat in this house, to speak my sentiments with uncontrolled freedom.

Lord Grenville then, without adverting to the point of order, proceeded ; and, in very strong language, made several observations against the slave trade in general : but as the present bill went only to a limitation of it in some measure, he confined himself to that subject, which, through the medium of the Sierra Leone company, was calculated to introduce civilization among the natives of Africa.

Lord Thurlow replied, and maintained that the bill was intended to benefit the Sierra Leone company, at the expense of the West India merchants. He treated that company in very severe terms, as having done, under the mask of piety and humanity, those things of which other persons would have been ashamed. On a division, the bill was lost by a majority of seven votes.

Thus terminated the attempt to check the trade ; and with it, the session came to a close—when the King, in proroguing Parliament, spoke these cheering words :

“ It may be permitted us to hope that the same protecting Providence will continue to us its guidance through the remainder of this eventful contest, and will conduct it finally to such an issue, as shall transmit

to future ages a memorable example of the instability of all power founded on injustice, usurpation, and impiety ; and shall prove the impossibility of ultimately dissolving the connection between public prosperity and public virtue."

This was an obvious allusion to the perturbed state of France, where, not long after, Buonaparte, like Cromwell, at the head of his soldiery, abolished the Directory, and assumed the reins of power, as chief of the consular government ; his two nominal coadjutors being the Abbe Sieyes and Roger Ducos.

On the 24th of September, this year, after an unusually short vacation, the British Parliament reassembled for the avowed purpose of making such military preparations as might be called for at that eventful crisis.

During this interval, the navy of Great Britain lost one of its oldest and brightest ornaments, in the death of Admiral Earl Howe, at the age of seventy-four.

The professional history of this great man forms too large a portion of the national annals to need a recital here. George the Second did him no more than justice, when, on his lordship's introduction at the levee, after the defeat of the French fleet under Conflans, in the bay of Quiberon, he said, " Your life, my lord, has been one continued series of services to your country."

In the unfortunate attack upon St. Cas, near St. Malo, in 1758, Commodore Howe displayed equal skill, courage, and humanity. Before the embarkation of the English troops could be completed, the French poured down in such numbers, that a dreadful carnage ensued. At this juncture, in the midst of a fire that staggered the bravest seamen, the commodore ordered his barge to be

rowed in shore, to encourage all that were engaged in the service, and to bring off as many men as the boat would carry. The rest of the fleet followed the example, and thus, by his exertions, at least seven hundred men were preserved from the fire of the enemy, and the fury of the waves.

Prince Edward, afterwards Duke of York, was then serving under Commodore Howe, as a midshipman; and when his Royal Highness, in 1762, hoisted his flag on board the *Amelia*, as second in command, under Sir Edward Hawke, Lord Howe became captain of that ship.

The advancement of the noble admiral was in proportion to his merits; and Lord Hawke, when some reflection was made in the House of Peers on the employment of his friend, paid him this compliment:—"It was I that advised his Majesty to make the promotion. I have tried my Lord Howe on many important occasions; he never asked me *how* he was to execute any service, but always went and performed it."

The last public act of a life employed against the enemies of his country, was exerted to compose its internal dissensions. It was the lot of Earl Howe to restore the fleet, which he had conducted with glory on the sea, to order and loyalty in the harbour.

Of the calm intrepidity of the noble admiral in all circumstances of personal danger, the following is an instance. Being once obliged to come to an anchor in a very unfavourable situation, he retired to rest. In the middle of the night, he was roused from his sleep by the first lieutenant.

"What is the matter?" exclaimed the admiral. The lieutenant, with a wistful look, said, "My lord, the anchor's come home."

“Is that all?” replied his lordship, “I don’t know what could keep any thing out in such a night as this.”

It is not to be inferred from this, that the great commander was stoically indifferent to the difficulties that surrounded him. The principle on which he acted in such cases, was to keep up the spirits of his officers and people, as the surest means of preservation, by infusing general confidence among them.

When commander-in-chief on the North American station, during the revolutionary war, the noble admiral insisted upon the pursers, clerks, and even the chaplains, taking their respective turns in keeping watch. This decree proved very disagreeable to those gentlemen; who pleaded strenuously, but in vain, for an exemption, on the ground of prescriptive right and professional privilege. Lord Howe’s secretary and chaplain, Mr. Obeirne, afterwards bishop of Meath in Ireland, undertook to remonstrate with the commander on behalf of his reverend brethren. The admiral heard him with great patience, and then, in his usual dry manner, said, “What, cannot ye watch, as well as pray?”

CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1800 TO 1801.

ON the 2d of April, 1800, Lord Auckland, after expatiating very forcibly and eloquently upon the enormous increase of the vice of adultery, and the perversion as well as abuse of many divorce bills which had passed the legislature of this country, moved to bring in a bill to prevent any person divorced for adultery from intermarrying with the other guilty party. The bill was accordingly brought in; and upon the order of the day for the second reading on the 4th of the same month, the DUKE OF CLARENCE rose, to give it his decided opposition. His Royal Highness admitted that adultery was an enormous crime; that it struck at the root of domestic happiness; and was destructive of the best interests of society. Happy should he be, therefore, in supporting any measure that had a tendency to check the increase of adultery; but highly as he thought of the talents of the noble lord who had introduced the measure, and much as he admired his motives in bringing it forward, he felt it his duty to oppose the bill, as being more likely to increase than to prevent the crime. When he considered the consequences that would follow the operation of such a bill, he could not but regard it as fatal to those, who from their amiableness were entitled to compassion and liberality. His main objection to the bill was that it made no provision for the unfortunate

female. It on the contrary took away from her almost the only remedy that the practice of the legislature now allowed in respect to divorce—the hopes of salving her reputation, by marrying the man who had beguiled her. Let their lordships recollect, that as divorce bills were only attainable by persons of property and distinction, the wives of such men, when fallen, were in a manner expelled from society, and deprived of the means of living. They could neither work nor beg, and therefore must abandon themselves to prostitution. It was a painful fact, that among the divorce bills which had come before them within a few years, several had been petitioned for by persons of high rank in life. Let their lordships make the case their own, and consider whether they thought their ladies, if it should be their misfortune to be complainants, ought to be reduced from splendour to misery, as they might be by the operation of this bill. However deeply the prevalence of adultery was to be deplored, surely all commiseration for the unfortunate was not to be sacrificed to their lordships' zeal. It had been said, that many divorces originated in a contract between the offending parties to intermarry, in the event of a dissolution of their present union. He doubted the fact, and rather thought that the virtue of the woman had in most cases been undermined by the artifices of the seducer. There might possibly be a solitary instance of collusion between the parties; but of the frequency of the occurrence, there must be stronger evidence than bare assertion, before he could give it credit. He could easily believe that divorces by the legislature increased the number of adulteries. When a divorce was obtained by an act, as the practice now stood, it was open to the man, who had been the offender,

to make the best amends he could by marrying the repudiated victim. But looking at the case as a man of the world, the Duke said, he could not shut his eyes to the fact, that the husband, by suing for and obtaining pecuniary compensation, was not to be considered as acting a honourable part, if he put the money into his own pocket, instead of returning it for the benefit of his desolated wife. His Royal Highness then compared the general effect of punishments with the offences to which they were applied : and he contended that in proportion as the judgment was severe, the crime rather increased than diminished. To prove the inefficacy of punishing desertion capitally, he adduced this instance. During the war which terminated in 1763, the French government issued an edict subjecting every deserter to be shot ; yet it was notorious, that after the promulgation of this decree, desertions multiplied more than ever. The Duke imputed many of the late divorces to the accidental effect of the war, which separated officers of the army and navy a long time from their families.

It was fair to conclude, therefore, that the return of peace would restore domestic order, and abate the evil. His Royal Highness then moved, that the said bill be read a second time this day three months. On putting the question, the motion was negatived ; and the second reading having passed, the bill was ordered to be committed on the 16th of May.

On that day, the Duke of Clarence again rose to deliver his sentiments, in opposition to the noble lords who supported the bill, particularly the bishop of Rochester, Dr. Horsley. His Royal Highness, in discussing the scriptural argument, owned that an adulteress,

by the Mosaic law, was to be stoned to death ; but he endeavoured to shew that there was a Jewish bill of divorce, at later periods, greatly superior to the present Christian one, the demerits of which he was pointing out. The Jewish bill was always drawn by a notary, and ran thus at the conclusion : “ Now I divorce thee, dismiss thee, and cast thee out, that thou mayest be free, and have the rule of thyself, to depart, and to marry with any other man whom thou wilt ; and let no man be refused by thee for me, from this day forward, for ever ! Thus be thou lawful for any man, and this shall be to thee from me a bill of separation, a bill of divorce, and a letter of dismissal, according to the law of Moses and Israel.” By the law of Moses and Israel, therefore, women were allowed to marry again ; and as no exclusion is made of the seducer, it is evident that the partner in his guilt might become his wife. Nay, about the time of our Saviour, it was a custom among the Roman, as well as the Jewish women, to divorce their husbands, and marry again at pleasure. The bill tendered by the Roman ladies was called the “ letter of forsaking ;” and to make it clear that the same practice existed among the Jews, our Saviour says, (Mark x. 12.) “ If a woman shall put away her husband, and marry another, she committeth adultery.”

The Jews were very scrupulous in bringing proofs of infidelity before a judge ; for, by so doing, they said, the honour of one or both parties would be hazarded. It was enough for the judge to see the special points upon which the husband grounded his plea of divorce, and then the magistrate gave judgment, that he simply divorced the wife, but without a particular charge, and allowed both to marry again with whom they should see good.

The Duke then pointed out the customs of the Greeks and Romans in cases of divorce, which were, he said, in a great measure taken from the laws of the Jews.

The Athenians admitted no divorcement without proof of the cause before the judges ; and that people, like the Jews, deemed it a matter of delicacy and hazard to both parties. As an instance of this, when Hippocrete, the wife of Alcibiades, quitted his house on account of his libertinism, and appeared before the archon to claim a legal separation, the husband rushed into court, and carried her home, where she remained till her death.

The Duke next noticed the brutal custom of the Grecian and Roman husbands in lending out their wives for hire, favour, or caprice. Yet we are told that, by one of Solon's laws, the man who surprised his wife in adultery might put her to death. Thus it appears, that while the husband was at liberty to prostitute his partner to all his connexions, the beautiful but enslaved victim was to suffer death, if, after the prostitution of her person to please her tyrant lord, she should do the same to please herself. We have it upon record, that Socrates lent his wife to Alcibiades ; and this custom, it is pretended, was introduced by Lycurgus, to prevent the fatal effects of jealousy. A very certain preventive, it must be confessed ! But, said his Royal Highness, if this bill should pass into a law, the legalized prostitution of English wives by divorcement from their careless husbands, may act in a certain degree upon the female character here, as it did on the ladies of Greece and Italy, by the men lending them out, to prevent jealousy.

In the one case, by this bill, the husband would be enabled to prostitute his wife for ever ; while his treatment

is, perhaps, the fatal cause of her eternal ruin. In the other case, the husband prostituted his wife, too, by law; but then he took the degraded object to his bed until he became jealous, when he cured himself of his passion by surrendering her to another of his friends.

By the bill now before the house, perpetual prostitution follows seduction. By the Greek and Roman law, seduction was unnecessary. The fiat of the husband made the prostitute; while by this bill the cruelty and incontinence of the husband will effect the same disgrace. In Greece, adulteries not founded upon the consent of all parties, were punished by penalties. As to the Romans, they seldom assigned any reason for their bills of divorce. Witness the conduct of Paulus Emilius to his first wife Papyria, whom he divorced without a cause, although she had brought him several children; among whom were the illustrious Scipio and Fabius Maximus. But with regard to Roman divorces in general, some light may be thrown upon the facility with which they were obtained, by what Plutarch relates of a man who, on being asked why he put away his wife, answered by holding up his shoe: "Is not this shoe handsome? Is not this shoe new? Yet no one knows where it pinches, but he that wears it." By the law of Romulus, the husband had not only the command of his wife, but also in some cases the power of life and death over her. This was insufferable tyranny, but not greater than that of the present bill, if it should pass into a law.

His Royal Highness having traced the punishment for adultery among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, called the attention of their lordships to the following passage of Montesquieu, "You may make laws to correct the manners of women, and to limit their luxury; but who

knows that, hereby, they may not lose that peculiar taste which is the source of riches to a nation, and that politeness which makes the country attractive to strangers?"

Thus, then, let us lay no more ignominious restraints upon women, and particularly such an arbitrary one as the present bill would impose upon the sex from whom we derive much of the solace and comfort of life. Let us not assemble here, to forge the chains of prostitution for the degradation of the women of England! Rather let us adopt the Christian charity of a right reverend prelate towards the female sinner, as delivered some years ago in a sermon preached for the benefit of the Magdalen Institution. The prelate alluded to was the bishop of Rochester, Dr. Horsley, who, after stating the indelible disgrace which follows seduction, observes, "It is one great defect, that by the consent of the world, (for the thing stands upon no other ground,) the whole infamy is made to light upon one party only, in the crime of the two; and the man, who for the most part is the author, not the mere accomplice, of the woman's guilt, and for that reason is the greater delinquent, is left unpunished and uncensured. This mode of partial punishment affords not to the weaker sex the protection, which in justice and sound policy is their due, against the arts of the seducer. The Jewish law set an example of a better policy, and more equal justice, when, in the case of adultery, it condemned both parties to an equal punishment; which indeed was nothing less than death.

"A worse evil, a mischief, attending the salutary severity, upon the whole, of our dealing with the lapsed female, is this,—that it proves an obstacle almost insur-

mountable to her return into the paths of virtue and sobriety, from which she hath once deviated. The first thing that happens, upon the detection of her shame is, that she is abandoned by her friends, in resentment of the disgrace she hath brought upon her family; she is driven from the shelter of her father's house; she finds no refuge in the arms of her seducer; his sated passion loathes the charms he hath enjoyed; she gains admittance at no hospitable door; she is cast a wanderer upon the streets, without a lodging, without food! In this forlorn and hopeless situation, suicide or prostitution is the alternative to which she is reduced. Thus, the very possibility of repentance is almost cut off; unless it be such repentance as may be exercised by the terrified sinner in her last agonies, perishing in the open streets, under the merciless pelting of the elements, of cold and hunger, and a broken heart. And yet the youth, the inexperience, the gentle manners once, of many of these miserable victims of man's seduction, plead hard for mercy, if mercy might be consistent with the treasure we so sternly guard."

His reason for quoting this passage, was, his Royal Highness said, to ascertain the opinions of the right reverend prelate on the condition of the seducer and the seduced, and to oppose those opinions that had been recently used. On these arguments he would now repose for support, and he hoped that their due application would be made in behalf of the unhappy female, who might be beguiled by the arts of a designing villain. But the case of the unfortunate woman who fell under these seducements was an object of humane consideration. The laws already punished her delinquency by a divorce, the deprivation of her dower, and by the disgrace in-

separably attached to such conduct. His Royal Highness admitted that the laws ought to be vindicatory on these occasions, but their punishments, he maintained, should be equitable, which was not the case in the present instance ; and, therefore, he gave the bill his decided negative. Notwithstanding this, the bill passed, and was sent down to the lower house, where it experienced a different fate, being rejected by a considerable majority.

The day preceding this debate was rendered remarkable by two providential escapes of the King: the first, in the morning, at a review of the guards in Hyde Park, when a shot was fired, which struck a young gentleman very near his Majesty ; and the second, in the evening, at Drury Lane theatre, when a man in the pit discharged a pistol at the royal box, but without doing any injury. On investigation, it clearly appeared that the former occurrence was purely accidental ; but the coincidence of two such circumstances in one day, made a strong impression upon the public mind. The Duke of Clarence was not present in the Park, but he was at the theatre, and took an active part in the examination of the culprit, and conducted him to the prison in Cold Bath Fields. The unfortunate man deported himself decorously after his apprehension, and solemnly professed that he had no intention to destroy the King ; but only to get rid of a life which was a burden to himself. He had been with the Duke of York on the continent, and was recognized by his Royal Highness, the moment he saw him, as having been one of his orderly dragoons. It is barely sufficient to say, that at the ensuing sessions, the prisoner, whose name was James Hatfield, was acquitted, on the ground of insanity ; in consequence of which, he

was sent to the hospital of Bedlam, where he yet continues.

On the morning after these deliverances, an affecting scene took place at Buckingham House, when the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York, Clarence, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Prince William breakfasted with their Majesties and the Princesses. At one o'clock the King held a levee, which was most numerous attended by the dignitaries of the church, the foreign ambassadors, ministers of state, the lord mayor, and nearly the whole of the members of both houses of parliament, who came on purpose to congratulate his Majesty on his miraculous escape.

The fortitude and presence of mind of the King in both instances commanded universal admiration. When the accident happened in the Park, his Majesty rode up to the wounded gentleman, took his address, and directed him to be conveyed to his residence at Chelsea, where Surgeon Nixon extracted the ball, which had passed through one thigh into the other. The patient soon recovered, and obtained a commission in the twenty-fifth light dragoons then in India, where he rose to the rank of Captain, and was present at most of the battles and sieges under General Lord Lake, to whose care he was recommended by the King.

When the atrocious attempt was made to destroy his Majesty at the theatre, the Queen had not entered the royal box ; and on her appearance, the King with uncommon presence of mind and tenderness, waved his hand, as a signal for her to keep back, saying at the same time, " They are letting off squibs ; and, perhaps, there may be more."

Notwithstanding this, and the shock produced by such

a circumstance, the King would not leave the theatre till the performances were all concluded. When the Royal Family returned to Buckingham House, supper was brought up, but no one sat down. Her Majesty drank some wine and water, and then retired. The Princess Amelia, who had been ill nearly two years, fainted, on entering her chamber ; and the fits continued so long, that her restoration to life appeared doubtful. His Majesty, who, during the whole evening was perfectly cool and composed, on hearing of the situation of the Princess, went and attended her until recollection returned, when she threw herself into his arms, and said, "She would be comforted." His Majesty on leaving the chamber of Amelia, went to Elizabeth, Augusta, and Mary, all of whom were in a condition nearly the same as their sister : but a flow of tears brought them relief, in which state they passed the night. During this confusion, the Princess Sophia, who had for some time been indisposed, repeatedly called to her attendant to know the cause of the alarm. She was told that the Princess Amelia had returned from the theatre ill. The King in passing said, "Sophia, good night ;" and retired to rest. This was about one in the morning, and on taking leave of the gentleman who waited upon him, his Majesty observed, "I am going to bed, with the confidence that I shall sleep soundly ; and my prayer is, that the unhappy man who aimed at my life may rest as quietly as I shall."

Amidst the agitation which the murderous attack upon the venerable Monarch excited, it was gratifying to witness the loyal feeling that burst forth from all parts of the theatre in execrations on the assassin, and a demand for his seizure and appearance on the stage.

The audience, on receiving the assurance that he was in safe custody, were satisfied ; but some thought, and not without reason, that the manager might have selected a more fitting person to address the house, in the presence of their Majesties and the Princesses, than Mrs. Jordan !

This circumstance is not mentioned here by way of reflecting upon the actress, whose conduct, under the peculiar circumstances in which she was placed, entitled her to respect : but when nearly all the female branches of the Royal Family were assembled together in public view, and with their illustrious parents were objects of more than ordinary sympathy ; the conspicuous appearance of a person situated as Mrs. Jordan was, gave to the spectacle an effect that ought to have been avoided.

The following particulars of Mrs. Jordan, extracted from a Memoir of her, by Mr. Boaden, will, no doubt, be pleasing to the reader. After an account of a comedy in which she had performed, the biographer says :—

“ It was about this piece, I remember, we had been speaking, when she told me she had another East Indian offered at her shrine, which she would trouble me to read. I did so ; and we talked the piece over at her town residence in Somerset Street, Portman Square. She had not told me who was the author of the play. But there was that in it which merited consideration. I gave her my opinion frankly, and pointed out the indecorum of the interest : however, though not a moral play, it was written evidently by a man of talent ; and, as a benefit piece, preferable to an old one. Mrs. Jordan, here, in confidence, informed me that the Duke had taken the

trouble to read it, at her desire also ; and that we agreed most decisively in our opinions.

“ She was in charming spirits, I remember, that morning, and occasionally ran over the strings of her guitar. Her young family were playing about us, and the present Colonel George Fitzclarence, then a child, amused me much, with his spirit and strength ; he attacked me, as his mother told me, his fine tempered father was accustomed to permit him to do himself. He certainly was an infant Hercules.”

From what another dramatic historian relates, it appears, that Mrs. Jordan was sufficiently proud of her high connexion. On one occasion, about this time, having shewn some discontent at the rehearsal of a new play, Mr. Wroughton, the manager, could not help noticing her behaviour with some asperity. “ Why,” said he to the heroine, “ you are, *grand*, madam, quite the *duchess* again.”

“ Very likely,” replied Mrs. Jordan, “ for you are not the first person, this very day, who has condescended to honour me ironically with the title.” Then, with all her characteristic humour, she said, that, having that morning discharged her Irish cook for impertinence, when she paid her the wages due to her, the indignant daughter of St. Patrick shewed her a shilling, and, banging it upon the table, exclaimed, “ Arrah, now, honey ! with this thirteener, won’t I sit in the gallery ? and won’t your royal grace give me a curt’sey ? and won’t I give your highness a howl and a hiss into the bargain !”

This anecdote will remind the reader of some of the pleasantries of Nell Gwyn. At one time, when this “ wild and indiscreet creature,” as Burnet calls her, was in a

tradesman's shop in the city, a crowd outside assailed her servant with all the opprobrious epithets the vocabulary of the vulgar tongue could furnish.

Enraged at the insult, the man began to lay about him with his whip; but the odds were against him, and he was not only pummelled, but covered with mud. His mistress, when the fray ended, demanded the cause. "Why," said the servant, "they called your ladyship a courtesan." "Poh, you fool," said Nell, "if you engage in brawls for no other reason, you will have fighting enough; for it is what every body knows." "Do they?" replied John; "but they shall not call me a courtesan's coachman, for all that."

It is recorded to the honour of the favourite of Charles the Second, that she never abused her influence to any base purpose; and that, in the most licentious of all courts, she proved faithful to her royal protector.

She also paid respect to religion, by attending public worship with such regularity, that Dr. Tenison, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, then vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, gave her due praise in a funeral sermon. When questioned on the subject by Queen Mary, the honest divine told her Majesty, he wished all the ladies of her court were as good as Eleanor Gwyn.

Of the late Mrs. Jordan, it is but justice to say, that she brought up a numerous family with exemplary propriety; and that, in all respects, she made it her study as far as possible to prevent reproach.

If charity be a mantle sufficient to cover numerous frailties, the following anecdote will shew that Mrs. Jordan was not deficient in that virtue.

During her stay at Chester, where she had been performing, her washerwoman, a widow with three small

children, was, by a merciless creditor, thrown into prison ; a small debt of about forty shillings having been increased, by law expenees, to eight pounds. When Mrs. Jordan heard of the circumstance, she sent for the attorney, paid him his demand, and said, " You lawyers are certainly infernal spirits, allowed on earth to make poor mortals miserable." The man pocketed the affront without saying a word, and departed.

The same afternoon, the poor woman was liberated ; and, as Mrs. Jordan was taking her usual walk, the widow, with her children, followed her, and, just as she had taken shelter from a shower under a porch, dropped on her knees, exclaiming, " God bless you for ever, madam, you have saved me and my poor babes from ruin !" The children added to the affecting scene, by crying ; and Mrs. Jordan, stooping down to kiss them, slipped a pound-note into the mother's hand, saying, " There, there, now it's all over ; go, my good woman, and God bless you ! don't say another word.

It happened that another person had taken shelter under the porch, and witnessed the whole transaction. He now came forward, and, holding out his hand, said, " Lady, pardon the freedom of a stranger ; but, would to the Lord, the world were all like thee !"

The figure of this man bespoke his calling : his countenance was pale ; and a suit of sable, rather the worse for wear, covered his tall and spare person. Mrs. Jordan soon developed his character and profession, and replied, " No, I won't shake hands with you."—" Why ?"—" Because you are a Methodist preacher ; and when you know who I am, you will send me to the devil."—" The Lord forbid ! I am, as you say, a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who tells us to clothe the naked,

feed the hungry, and relieve the distressed; and do you think I can behold a sister fulfil the commands of my Master without feeling that spiritual attachment, which leads me to break through worldly customs, and offer you the hand of friendship and brotherly love?"—"Well, well, you are a good old soul, I dare say; but I—I don't like fanatics, and you'll not like me when I tell you who I am."—"I hope I shall."—"Well, then, I tell you I am a player." The preacher sighed. "Yes, I am a player, and you must have heard of me. My name is Jordan." After a short pause, he again extended his hand, with a complaisant countenance, and said, "The Lord bless thee, whoever thou art. His goodness is unlimited. He has bestowed on thee a large portion of his spirit; and, as to thy calling, if thy soul upbraid thee not, the Lord forbid that I should."

Thus reconciled, and the rain having abated, they left the porch together; the offer of his arm was accepted; and the votary of Thalia, and the disciple of Wesley, proceeded to the door of Mrs. Jordan's residence. At parting, they shook hands, and the preacher said, "Fare thee well, sister; I know not what the principles of people of thy calling may be, thou art the first I ever conversed with; but if their benevolent practices equal thine, I hope and trust, at the great day, the Almighty will say to each—'Thy sins are forgiven thee.'"

During this year, the Duke of Clarence lost two of the oldest of his professional friends.

The first was Admiral John Macbride, who commanded the *Bienfaisant*, and captured the Spanish ship of war, to which Admiral Rodney gave the name of Prince William, in whose presence she had the honour to be taken. Previous to this, Captain Macbride distinguished himself

on many occasions, particularly in compelling the Danes to give up the unfortunate Caroline Matilda, whom he conveyed to Stadt. In the American war, he commanded in the North Seas, and captured two large ships after a smart action; his account of which, contained the whimsical expression, that "he winged the gentry;" alluding to his favourite sport of cock fighting.

The honourable Samuel Barrington, who died at the age of seventy-one, was another brave commander, who enjoyed, as he well deserved, the personal esteem of the Duke of Clarence. The life of this veteran formed a singular exception to the common mode of rising in the navy. Although born of a noble family, he ascended, by slow degrees in the service. Instead of soliciting honours or emoluments, he waited till they were offered him, and sometimes he even declined what others as ardently sought.

In 1768, he was appointed to the *Venus* frigate, for the purpose of instructing the late Duke of Cumberland in nautical science. When the rupture took place between Great Britain and Spain, respecting the Falkland Islands, Captain Barrington commanded the *Albion*, of seventy-four guns. It being difficult to obtain seamen, the captain had recourse to a humorous expedient for manning his ship. He offered a bounty for all lamp-lighters, and persons of other trades that required alertness; by which means, he soon procured such a motley crew, that they went by the name of Barrington's blackguards. He soon, however, altered the description of them, by strict discipline and good treatment. The Admiral's services in the West Indies entitled him to the gratitude of his country; yet he never obtained any distinction, separate from his profession.

BOOK THE THIRD.

CHAPTER I.

A. D. 1801 TO 1803.

WE now enter upon the first year of the most eventful era in the history of Britain, if not of mankind. On the first of January, 1801, the union of England and Ireland commenced, when a council assembled, at which the King presided, and the Heir-apparent, with all the Royal Dukes, took the prescribed oaths. A new great seal was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, and the old one defaced. The altered standard was hoisted at the Tower, and the guns both there and in the Park announced to the public the important political change that had taken place.

Notwithstanding these formalities, the country never stood in a more alarming position than at this very period. After a contest of eight years, the nation saw fresh enemies rising on every side, among whom were some of those powers that had received ample subsidies from Britain, and professed the warmest zeal for the cause in which she was engaged. The emperor Paul, being disappointed in his expectation of being put in possession of Malta, issued an order for laying an embargo on all British vessels in Russian ports.

The violent and capricious monarch next proceeded to another measure of hostility; by reviving the northern confederacy, consisting of Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, the object of which was to establish by force a new code of maritime laws, directly inimical to this country.

In consequence of these outrages, the British Government adopted the retaliatory measure of ordering the seizure of all vessels belonging to any of the confederate powers, then in the ports of this country.

Though the king of Prussia did not become an avowed party in this convention, he acceded to it privately, and on particular conditions. In the month of March, the Prussians took possession of Hanover, and at the same time the Danish troops entered Hamburg and Lubeck, for the purpose of putting a stop to British commerce.

The most active exertions were now made, to meet the threatened danger, and to break by one great blow the formidable combination of the maritime states; who, on their part, were not less energetic in their preparations for present defence and future annoyance.

In the midst of these alarms, Parliament assembled, and on the 2d of February the King delivered a speech from the throne, in which, after noticing the coalition of the northern states against this country, his Majesty said, "In such a situation, I could not hesitate as to the conduct it became me to pursue. I have taken the earliest measures to repel the aggressions of this hostile confederacy, and to support those principles which are essential to the maintenance of our naval strength, grounded on the principle of public law so long established and recognized in Europe."

The debates on the address were animated, and brought the old question of the right of searching neutral ships under discussion; but with little information or argument that could be called new. The minister asked, "If we were to permit the navy of our enemy to be supplied and recruited? to suffer blockaded ports to be furnished with stores and provisions? and allow neutral nations, by hoisting a flag on a sloop or a fishing-boat, to convey the treasures of South America to Spain, or the naval stores of the Baltic to Brest or Toulon?" This reasoning was not to be answered, and the Parliament confirmed it by great majorities.

While Britain thus stood alone, to contend with the world in arms; other circumstances arose, to agitate the nation, and embarrass the government. Previous to the King's meeting his Parliament, a communication was made to his Majesty by Mr. Pitt, stating the prevailing sentiments of the majority in the Cabinet, to be in favour of admitting Catholics and Dissenters to public offices, and of Catholics to Parliament, with a view to the tranquillity and improvement of Ireland, and to the general interest of the united kingdom.

His Majesty in reply declined "discussing any proposition tending, as he thought, to destroy the groundwork of our happy constitution; and much more so, that now mentioned, which would be no less than the complete overthrow of the whole fabric."

The minister having intimated the necessity of his resignation, in the event of his Majesty's opposition to the proposed measure, the King answered—"Though I do not pretend to have the power of changing Mr. Pitt's opinion, when thus unfortunately fixed, yet I shall hope his sense of duty will prevent his retiring from his

present situation to the end of my life—for I can, with great truth, assert, that I shall, from public and private considerations, feel great regret, if I shall ever find myself obliged, at any time, from a sense of religious and political duty, to yield to his entreaties of retiring from his seat at the board of the Treasury.”

It was impossible, however, to shake the resolution of Mr. Pitt; and, on the 5th of February, his resignation was accepted, but with a condition, that he and his colleagues should continue to act till the new arrangement was formed.

This affair operated so strongly upon the royal mind, that a fever came on, from which the patient did not recover till the 12th of March; and, on the 17th, Mr. Addington was sworn into office, as first lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Hawkesbury succeeded Lord Grenville, as secretary for foreign affairs; Earl St. Vincent succeeded Earl Spencer at the Admiralty board; Lord Eldon became Chancellor, in the room of Lord Loughborough; Lords Hobart and Pelham were made secretaries of state, instead of the Duke of Portland and Mr. Dundas; Mr. Yorke took the post of Mr. Windham, as secretary at war; the Earl of Hardwicke accepted the situation of viceroy of Ireland; and Lord Lewisham was put at the head of the board of control.

While this cabinet was forming, an expedition, commanded by Admiral Sir Hyde Parker and Lord Nelson, sailed from Yarmouth Roads for the Baltic. To force an entrance through the Sound, appeared an enterprise scarcely practicable; so formidable were the defences which the Danes, and their allied neighbours, had made for the security of the approaches. Nelson, however,

was not to be deterred by obstacles. Born to encounter dangers, and to conquer them, he volunteered his service in directing the attack, and succeeded.

On the 16th of April, Earl St. Vincent, as first lord of the Admiralty, rose for the purpose of moving the thanks of the house to those noble, gallant, and distinguished commanders, who had so signally fought, and so decidedly obtained the victory over the Danish fleet before Copenhagen. He would move, too, with no less warmth, the thanks of the house to the officers, marines, and sailors, who had with so much courage sustained the engagement, and achieved the complete defeat of the enemy's fleet. Much as might be said for the glory and honour of the British arms, he must add, that, in his opinion, no one victory, through the whole course of our naval successes, was, in itself, of greater importance, nor likely to be attended with more important and extensive benefit to the British empire. He then moved the thanks of the house to Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, for the victory obtained over the Danish fleet on the 2nd of April; which was unanimously agreed to. The noble Earl then moved thanks to Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson; to Rear-Admiral Graves; to the honourable Colonel Stewart, of the 49th regiment of foot; together with the officers, marines, and sailors serving on board the British fleet.

The Duke of Clarence said, it might appear presumptuous in him to rise, and add his approbation to what had already been so forcibly expressed. He complimented Lord Nelson highly on his courage and intrepidity, which fortune seemed to back in every enterprise in which he was engaged. His Royal Highness also took that opportunity of acknowledging his own personal

obligation, as a Prince of the blood, to the gallant commanders, and to the whole fleet, for the accomplishment of a victory, which, probably, in its effects, would restore the possessions on the Continent to his Family, together with the peace and security of the British empire.

The battle of Copenhagen was followed by an armistice with Denmark and Sweden; while the sudden death of the Emperor Paul dissolved the confederacy, and changed the face of things in Europe.

But we must here leave the field of war and foreign politics, for the more tranquil seat of domestic legislation.

In this session of Parliament, two peculiar cases of divorce came under consideration in the House of Lords, on both of which the Duke of Clarence delivered his sentiments.

On the 19th of March, the house being in a committee on Taylor's divorce bill, the Marquis of Buckingham proposed the introduction of a clause providing that the adulteress should be interdicted from marrying the adulterer. The clause was supported by several peers, on account of the atrocity of the case, and the fact that the seducer was a clergyman.

The motion, however, was resisted by the Duke of Clarence, who said he had on a former occasion opposed a bill, which contained this as a general provision, which was now made particular; and applied, in his opinion, with injustice to the unfortunate woman who was implicated in the question. He would now oppose it much more, because the injustice was much greater. He saw nothing in the case which warranted such a provision. The offending parties, he knew nothing of; neither did he know any thing of Mr. Taylor the petitioner; but on revising the petition, His Royal Highness

said, he did not see that he called for such a restriction; he called but for redress, by a dissolution of the marriage; and with forgiveness and Christian charity, he left the unfortunate partner of his bosom, once, no doubt, dear to it, to seek for refuge in the arms of her seducer, as the only means by which she could be saved from utter ruin.

His Royal Highness, on the impolicy of the provision, maintained that the cause of religion, of morals, and of all the social virtues, was better promoted by such a permission, than by a prohibition. He remarked that one of the evils resulting from such a restriction would be, that women, so restricted, must be driven to despair, as few or none would wish to marry them after their infidelity. So situated, he said, they would form themselves into corps, and, from their seductive graces and accomplishments, prove thorns in the sides of those who were their former female acquaintances; but who, under such disgrace, would avoid their society, from a sense of virtue and decency.

He did not think such absurd regulations tended to promote or secure the public morals. He asked whether the unfortunate female was always the party in fault, and whether there was nothing to be ascribed to the conduct of the husband, who drove a woman into the arms of a seducer? He ascribed much to public example, whence purity of morals took its rise; and he was happy in expressing his sentiments on the pattern set by the first magistrate of the state, because he felt such sentiments to be perfectly just.

The house divided on the question; which was carried, and the report ordered—but the royal Duke declared his intention to oppose the bill altogether.

On the 20th of May, the house went into a committee on the bill to dissolve the marriage of Jane Campbell with Edward Addison her husband, and to enable her to marry again.

The first clause being read, the Duke of Clarence said he should simply move that the clause be expunged. Mrs. Addison had made out so strong a case, that if any criminal conduct of a husband towards a wife could amount to a justification of her obtaining a divorce from him at the hands of the legislature, this was the very case; but when he considered the novelty of the legislature granting a divorce to a wife, on complaint of adultery on the part of her husband, the infinite mischiefs it might lead to by encouraging the foulest collusion between married couples, to obtain an effectual discharge from their marriage vows and connexions, and the effect the practice would have on the morals of society, he must resist the present application. Petitions for divorce had so multiplied, that it was absolutely necessary to check them; and nothing could do so more effectually than to guard against the facility of its being obtained. For the reasons he had stated, he should move that the clause be expunged.

After some debate, His Royal Highness withdrew the motion, and the bill was passed.

On the 2nd of July, Parliament was prorogued by commission, when the Lord Chancellor, in the royal name, said, "The brilliant and repeated successes of his Majesty's arms by sea and land, important as they are in their immediate consequences, are not less satisfactory to his Majesty's mind, as affording fresh and decisive proofs of that vigorous exertion, undaunted valour, and steady perseverance, which distinguish the national cha-

racter; and on which the chief reliance must be placed, for respect abroad, and for confidence and security at home. Events so honourable to the British name, derive at the present moment, peculiar value, in his Majesty's estimation, from their tendency to facilitate the attainment of the great object of his unceasing solicitude—the restoration of peace on fair and adequate terms.”

This pacific intimation gave general satisfaction; but though it was soon known that negotiations were commenced, things remained in a state of suspense till the first of October, when the preliminaries of peace were signed at London, on the part of the French by M. Otto, and on that of Britain, by Lord Hawkesbury.

The King, who had been passing the summer at Weymouth, was unapprised of what had occurred, when he left that place for Windsor. At Andover he was met by a messenger, sent by the cabinet to announce the important intelligence. The despatches were delivered whilst his Majesty was standing at the window of the inn, conversing with the Earl of Cardigan and two other noblemen. Having opened the letter, the King appeared so much surprised, that the noblemen were on the point of withdrawing, but were desired to stop by his Majesty, who said, “I have received extraordinary news, but it is no secret. Preliminaries of peace are signed with France. I knew nothing of it whatever; but since it is made, I sincerely wish it may be lasting.”

On the 29th of October, parliament met, when the King concluded his speech in these words:—

“It is my first wish, and most fervent prayer, that my people may experience the reward they have so well merited—in a full enjoyment of the blessings of peace; in a progressive increase of the national commerce,

credit, and resources ; and, above all, in the undisturbed possession of their religion, laws, and liberties, under the safeguard and protection of that constitution, which it has been the great object of all our efforts to preserve, and which it is our most sacred duty to transmit unimpaired to our descendants.”

On the third of November, the preliminary treaty became the subject of debate on a motion in the House of Lords for an address to the King, when a decided opposition was made to the terms of the peace, by Lord Grenville, and the other members of the late administration. They were replied to by the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Bedford, Earl St. Vincent, and particularly by the Duke of Clarence.

His Royal Highness contended that we had every security which could be wished from a government of the nature of the French republic. In corroborating his several assertions, he took an able review of the rise and progress of the war, and bestowed the warmest eulogiums on our fleets and armies. It having been insinuated by the enemies of England, that whatever gallantry might be attributable to our seamen, our soldiers were inferior to the French ; he denied this illiberal slander, maintaining that wherever they had encountered the enemy, the proofs of their prowess were incontrovertible.

If we recurred to the campaign of 1793, when the British troops were equal in glory and success to their renowned ancestors ; or that of 1794, which was alike brilliant ; if we contemplated the affairs of India, in every engagement they acquired honour and distinction :—but the facts were too memorable to require detail ; he should only then advert at large to our successes in the East, which had been begun by the Marquis Wellesley, who had

overthrown the tyrant Tippoo. These plans, so happily executed, were likely to have received some interruption by the projects of Buonaparte, who, it is well known, had forty thousand of the best French troops in the expedition to Egypt. This measure, grand in its conception, and immense in its execution, menaced our power and territories in the East, besides endangering the Turkish government: it was the revival of the plan of Louis XIV., and which, by the spirit and enterprise of the first consul, enforced by such a numerous body of chosen troops, inured to every hardship of the field, appeared at first very formidable. The resistance which these invaders experienced from a handful of soldiers, under Sir Sidney Smith, long before the landing of that army which afterwards became in their turn the conquerors of Egypt, could not be too highly extolled. It was not, however, till the 21st of March in the present year, that Egypt had an opportunity of throwing off the French yoke, by the triumph of the British arms, which, engaged with the republicans, proved superior to them in courage and capacity. The glorious achievements of the 42d regiment, who destroyed Buonaparte's invincibles, could not but be remembered by England with pride and exultation. We were inferior far in numbers to the enemy; and the victory was gained by courage, ability, and military address.

Having surveyed the meritorious conduct of the army, his Royal Highness enumerated the exploits of the navy, which, on account of his own close connexion and professional partiality, he glanced at in a very cursory manner. The inestimable services of the British seamen were beyond all praise. Our transactions on the ocean, by which we had raised the character and name of our country to the greatest and most enviable eminence, were too

numerous to particularize, but they would remain to the latest posterity glorious in our naval history.

The Duke made some remarks on the relative situation of France and England, so far as regarded the objects of the war. Finding that each, from its vast conquests, was at last placed in that peculiar predicament in which no blow could be given with effect, he had no hesitation in saying, that the best plan that could be adopted was an adjustment of differences, and a reconciliation of parties. France had completely overcome every contending power on the continent, and therefore could have no new conquests in which to employ her numerous armies. Great Britain, so far as regarded maritime affairs, was in a similar state. The two great powers of Europe, therefore, having no other objects of peculiar attack, except the invasion of each other's domestic territories, were reduced to the necessity either of protracting an unavailing war, with the accumulation of debt and its concomitant calamities, or negotiating a peace. Nor was it a common peace, but a reconciliation of differences between the two first nations of the world, and he maintained that it was both a safe and honourable peace. Ministers had deserved the warmest thanks for the judicious selection of the particular settlements which they had retained. Ceylon was of the greatest importance to our East India possessions: it was an island whose productions were highly valuable to our commerce, consequently to our revenue; its spiceries and its harbours were extremely convenient to our merchandise, and the addition to our East India territories was inestimable. To specify minutely the advantages derivable from the possession of Trinidad would engross too much of their lordships' time; but its qualities, as an island, were

known, and well appreciated, as they deserved to be. The Cape of Good Hope being no place of trade, had not the commercial advantages attributed to its situation, and therefore its surrender was no considerable loss.

His Royal Highness concluded with observing, that the interest of France was its continental conquests; of England, its commerce: the former was a military government; the strength of the latter was its navy. In our view of aggrandizement, we placed the cultivation of the arts of peace, and the nurseries of seamen; in theirs was the preservation of that warlike system which had overcome every opposition on the continent. France was by necessity impelled to act upon that principle; and wisdom would induce England to adopt a plan diametrically opposite. Peace, from every view of the subject, must be very acceptable to both; and doubly so to the philanthropist, because it afforded both nations an opportunity of repairing the ravages of war. He hoped, and believed, it would be permanent, and therefore sincerely supported the motion.

Lord Nelson made a short speech to the same effect, and, as much stress had been laid on the importance of Malta, he gave it as his opinion, that the possession of the island was of no consequence, either in war or peace. The Cape also would be equally detrimental, if retained by us; and though it certainly ought not to be given up to the French, the cession would be better than the retention. His lordship said, he believed, that the peace would prove the best that existing circumstances admitted.

If such were the real sentiments of the naval hero, which may well be doubted, they underwent a material alteration within a very little time. After the renewal of hostilities, Nelson, in writing to Sir Alexander Ball,

governor of Malta, says, "I have received your sketch of the views of the French in the Mediterranean, on the whole outline of which I perfectly agree with you; and on the smaller part, there are only shades of difference. I know the importance of Malta: but I fancy I also know how far its importance extends; on this point we may differ, but we both agree that it never must be even risked putting into the hands of France. Algiers will be French, in one year after peace—you see it; and a man may run and read, that such is the plan of Buonaparte."—This prediction was not fulfilled during the reign of Napoleon, but it has since been verified; and what may be the consequences of a French establishment in the region of the ancient Numidia, must be left to time for a full development.

Though the preliminaries of peace were signed on the first of October, it was not till the 27th of March in the following year, that the final settlement of the definitive treaty took place at Amiens.

The Duke of Clarence seldom bore any part in political discussions, during the brief and imbecile administration of Mr. Addington; but we find him on some occasions giving his support to the measures of Government, particularly those of his noble friend, Lord St. Vincent, for effecting reforms in the naval arsenals. His Royal Highness also appeared before the committee of the House of Commons, to give the weight of his testimony in favour of vaccine inoculation, the efficacy of which had been experienced in his family. Most of his time was now spent at Bushy House; the grounds and gardens round which, were laid out with great taste and judgment. Every thing was conducted upon a principle of utility and economy; yet, while extravagance was carefully shunned,

and order was strictly observed, there appeared in the mansion, and all about it, a union of elegance and comfort.

On the last day of August, Parliament was prorogued ; but was convened again on the 23d of November, when the speech delivered from the throne too clearly indicated a want of confidence in the permanency of that peace which had been so lately ratified, and of the stability of which such great boasting had been made.

“In my intercourse with foreign powers,’ said his Majesty, “I have been actuated by a sincere disposition for the maintenance of peace. It is nevertheless impossible for me to lose sight of that established and wise system of policy, by which the interests of other states are connected with our own ; and I cannot, therefore, be indifferent to any material change in their relative condition and strength. My conduct will be invariably regulated by a due consideration of the actual situation of Europe, and by a watchful solicitude for the permanent welfare of my people.”

This language was no obscure presage of war, and as such it was considered by the members of both houses who spoke on the proposed address. The symptoms of hostility increased, when resolutions were made for augmenting the forces by sea and land. In this feverish state, things continued till the 15th of March, 1803, when the King sent a message to parliament, stating, that in consequence of the preparations carrying on in the ports of France and Holland, he had thought it necessary to call out and assemble the militia of the United Kingdom

On the 16th of May, another message announced the recall of his majesty’s minister from Paris, and the departure of the French ambassador from London.

On the 23d, the order of the day for taking into consideration this message being read, Lord Pelham rose to move an address expressive of the indignation of the house of peers at the conduct of the French government, with full assurance of their support in the threatened struggle with so ambitious an enemy.

The noble secretary stated the proceedings with regard to Malta, the demand of the First Consul for a restraint upon the press in this country, and for the expulsion of the emigrants. He also noticed the provocations we had received from Sebastiani's mission to Egypt, and the avowed design of Buonaparte upon that country. Malta, his lordship considered, was our best security against the ambition of the French, and therefore, under existing circumstances, ministers had resolved upon its retention.

The Duke of Cumberland went over the several topics that had been discussed by Lord Pelham, and particularly dwelt upon the attack of Buonaparte on the freedom of the British press. His Royal Highness hoped we should remember the nature of that constitution which had been handed down to us by our ancestors, and that we would transmit it unimpaired to posterity. If the ambition of Buonaparte was not resisted, our nobility would be annihilated, our altars overturned, and the glory of Britain be extinguished for ever. On the contrary, if we remained true to ourselves, we should continue as we had been, the most independent nation in the world. Our foe has had the presumption to boast, said the royal orator, that Britain could not single-handed cope with France. He was, however, proud to say, that this country had never yet wanted an arm to check injustice, and counteract ambition.

The Duke of Clarence observed, that this was one of the most important questions that had ever been discussed in a British Parliament. It amounted to this, whether England should maintain her ancient rights and independence, or bow the neck to the yoke of a foreign power. Immediately after signing the treaty of peace, part of Italy was made an integral part of France; the independence of Switzerland was violated; and Holland was at that moment overrun by French troops, and held in complete subjugation by that ambitious government. Still greater was what had been avowed with respect to Egypt. The chief consul made no secret of his intention, that, sooner or later, that province must fall within his power. In support of this, his Royal Highness referred to the infamous report of Sebastiani, who had calumniated the British consul, and the British commander-in-chief in Egypt. This was also proved by the conversation of the Chief Consul with Lord Whitworth, in which Buonaparte flatly contradicted the declaration of his own minister, Talleyrand, who had given out that Sebastiani's expedition was merely commercial.

Besides these just grounds of complaint, they had dared to demand that we should change the fundamental laws of our constitution—they sought to fetter the liberty of the British press, under whose freedom that of the country had equally flourished. With respect to the alleged infraction of the treaty on our part, Malta was the only thing they ventured to urge; but as no guarantee, from the intervening circumstances, had been found, according to the stipulation in the treaty, that "it should not be ceded till it was guaranteed," the refusal to give up that island could not be considered as any violation of the spirit of the treaty. On this

question his Royal Highness trusted that the house would be unanimous—that they would exert every nerve—and that if war must be entered into, we should pursue it with ardour and concord.

In conclusion, his Royal Highness hoped that the result would be glorious for this country, and fortunate for the happiness of the world. After several peers had spoken, the proposed address was carried without a division.

On the 2nd of June, Earl Fitzwilliam moved several resolutions, tending to criminate ministers for their conduct in making peace with France, and in the negotiation. Though in the division these were negatived, his lordship, four days after, brought forward some additional resolutions, which were in substance, “that no adequate representations had been made of the aggression of France; that the conduct of ministers had been of the utmost injury to the nation; that they were unworthy of confidence; and that his Majesty should be petitioned for their removal.”

The Duke of Clarence, with uncommon warmth, defended ministers. He took a general review of the grounds on which the resolutions rested; condemned the conduct of the French government; and admitted that he had from the beginning only considered the peace as an experiment, though he never thought it would be lasting, and was considerably disappointed when he heard that it was signed. Notwithstanding this, he had no doubt that ministers had done the best for the country, and therefore he would support them; if for no other reason, yet that their predecessors might be kept out, where improper management and inability rendered their re-admission much to be deprecated.

“I wish,” concluded the royal Duke, “to see this country exerting her vast resources, to convince the mighty hero, Buonaparte, that we are able to contend single-handed against France and all her accessions. I wish to see Great Britain chastise France. It is not the first time that she has so done : and if the war be conducted with vigour and wisdom, I think it cannot last long.”

On Saturday the 18th, Lord Hobart presented a message from the King, intimating the necessity of arming the country. Upon his lordship’s motion, the message was ordered to be taken into consideration on Monday.

Accordingly, on that day, Lord Hobart brought forward a plan for the more effectual defence of the nation. His lordship expressed his conviction that there could be no difference of opinion on the necessity of the measure, and therefore he proceeded to state the course intended to be adopted. It was necessary, he said, that we should resort to more extraordinary means than those calculated to resist any attack upon our shores ; though, on viewing the population and resources of the country, he felt confident there was nothing to apprehend. In the late war, we had a militia force of 114,500 men, in England, Scotland, and Ireland. At present we had 72,900. He proposed an addition of 40,000 for England, and 10,000 for Ireland ; to be raised from the age of eighteen to forty-five ; and appropriated to the defence of every part of the United Kingdom. By this means, we might have a large and well-trained disposable force on any emergency. His lordship concluded with moving an address on the message.

The Duke of Clarence thought the plan infinitely less objectionable than the one which was supposed to be in

agitation. He entered upon a statement of the real causes of the war, and contended that they had no reference to Malta, but arose out of the repeated insults and aggressions of the French government; concluding with an historic review of the different attempts at invasion, from the time of Queen Elizabeth to the present period, in order to shew the futility of such enterprises, but inferring from thence the necessity of having an adequate force for offensive operations.

For this reason, his Royal Highness was of opinion that the plan now proposed did not go far enough, and that a more efficient force ought to be raised, and which the population of the kingdom could well supply.

The Duke of Cumberland supported the reasoning of his brother; and recommended that the number of men, instead of being fifty thousand, should be doubled. His proposition, however, was withdrawn, and the Army of Reserve Bill, as it was called, passed through both houses, and obtained the royal assent.

On the 12th of August, the session closed with a speech from the throne, at the conclusion of which his Majesty said:—

“ I rely with confidence, that, under the divine protection, the exertions of my brave and loyal subjects will prove to the enemy, and to the world, that an attempt to subvert the independence, or impair the power, of the United Kingdom, will terminate in the disgrace and ruin of those by whom it may be made; and that my people will find an ample reward for all their sacrifices, in an undisturbed enjoyment of that freedom and security, which, by their patriotism and their valour, they will have preserved to themselves and their posterity.”

CHAPTER II.

A.D. 1803 to 1805.

NEVER, since the reign of Elizabeth, did Britain exhibit a more glorious spectacle than on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th of October, 1803; when the King reviewed the London district of volunteers in Hyde Park.

As soon as light appeared, the greater part of the population was on foot, impelled by curiosity to witness the brilliant scene. At seven o'clock, several of the corps entered the Park; and by eight, all stood assembled in close column of companies, each on its proper ground. Soon after nine, a signal-gun announced the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief, who entered from Hyde Park Corner, with the Duke of Cambridge and their aides-de-camp. The Duke of Cumberland, in the uniform of his regiment of light dragoons, soon followed. It was not quite ten, when his Majesty, in his private carriage, attended by the Duke of Kent in his uniform as general, and the Duke of Clarence in the uniform of the Teddington Association, entered the Park at Kensington gate.

Here the King alighted from his carriage, and mounted his charger. His Majesty then rode forward, preceded by the life guards, and the royal grooms, with four led horses, richly caparisoned. His Majesty was accompanied by the Princes, and followed by the Queen, with the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, in one open landau,

and Sophia and Mary in another. Opposite the entrance to Kensington Gardens, his Majesty was met by the Duke of York, and the whole of the staff. As the procession advanced, it was joined by Monsieur, the Prince de Condé, the Duke de Bourbon, and the Duke de Berri, all on horseback, and in the ancient French uniforms. Several of the noblesse, and General Dumourier, were in their train. The cavalcade, which was closed by a party of the 13th light dragoons, passed rapidly along the carriage road from Kensington Gate as far as the rear of the barracks, where it turned, and crossed to the right of the line by the bottom of the Serpentine river.

As soon as his Majesty entered the Park, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the artillery company. A second cannon announced his Majesty's arrival at the centre of the line. The officers saluted, the corps presented arms, and the bands played "God save the King." Immediately afterwards, a third cannon was fired, when the corps shouldered, and then supported arms. His Majesty now proceeded to the right of the line, each corps carrying arms as he passed. The grandest part of the spectacle was when the King descended the hill to repass, at the bottom of the Serpentine, to the corps on the left, stationed along the footway to Kensington Gardens, with their front towards the water. By this time, the fog, which had hitherto dimmed the splendour of the scene, was dispelled in some degree, so that the whole procession, as well as the military line, became conspicuous. The ground in the rear of the royal train was covered with elegantly dressed females, and other spectators. His Majesty having passed to the extremity of the line, returned again by the Serpentine, and took his position in the centre. Then, at signal, three vol-

leys were fired by battalions from the centre to the flanks, and, at another signal, three loud and universal cheers were given, while the drums beat, and the music played the national tune of "God save the King." At the firing of the ninth gun, the whole of the corps wheeled round by divisions, and, having passed his Majesty in order, proceeded to their respective quarters.

The review being over by half past one, the royal party, with the foreign princes and generals, returned from the centre of the park to Piccadilly gate, and thence to Buckingham House, followed all the way by an immense crowd. Being no longer restrained by the military employed in keeping the lines, the people ran in all directions to have a view of the Sovereign. The air resounded with shouts wherever he passed, and his Majesty shewed his sense of their loyal affection, by pulling off his hat, and other marks of feeling. Among the persons who attracted particular notice in the Park, was the Mameluke chief, Elfi Bey. He was in a carriage accompanied by an interpreter and his aid-de-camp, with a train of servants dressed in scarlet and gold. The whole number of spectators, on this occasion, could not have been less than two hundred thousand. Many came to town from a distance of one hundred miles, to enjoy the exhilarating sight. The volunteers, reviewed this day, consisted of more than twelve thousand.

On Friday, a similar exhibition took place in the review of the Westminster, Lambeth, and Southwark volunteers. So great was the anxiety in some corps, that the majority of the men never laid down during the preceding night, the whole of which was spent in preparation. At six o'clock the men were mustered at their respective drill-grounds; but so great a fog came

on, that at half-past seven not a single object could be seen in the Park; and several of the corps would have passed the gate, had they not been stopped by a party of the life guards stationed to guard the entrance. The eager expectation which ushered in the morning, now changed to apprehension. The houses, scaffolds, and vehicles prepared for the accommodation of spectators, dropped their prices, and would have fallen lower, had not the fog fortunately begun to clear up about half-past eight; when the day assumed a more cheerful aspect, and the people again assembled in still greater numbers than on Wednesday.

The same regulations to maintain order were observed, as those which were adopted on that day. The Park was shut up all night, and the gates were not opened for the admission of the populace until eight o'clock, at which time the corps began to arrive. From that hour until ten, the crowd at Piccadilly Gate was so great, that the pressure became alarming; and many persons, it was feared, would be crushed or trampled to death, in the immense tide which endeavoured to force through the side passages, the only ones for admission. Under these circumstances, the police officers ventured to open the main gates, and by that means prevented the dreaded evil. As each corps entered, the guards shouldered arms; and as the colours passed, arms were presented. The King arrived at Knightsbridge barracks, from Kew, about ten, accompanied by her Majesty and Princesses. Soon after, the royal party entered the Park, preceded by a troop of horse, and attended by the Dukes of York, Clarence, and Cumberland. The fog now began to disperse, and the sight became truly magnificent, as the cavalcade could be seen passing the lines, the whole of

which was formed into companies, to the extent of three quarters of a mile. The evolutions were as on the former day, and did equal credit to the volunteers and their officers. The multitude was beyond conception great, particularly females; and it seemed as if the whole non-military population of the metropolis had come forward in honour of their defenders.

On the following day, the Commander-in-chief issued general orders, saying that he had received the King's command to convey to the several volunteer and associated corps, which were reviewed in Hyde Park on the 26th and 28th instant, his Majesty's highest approbation of their appearance, which equalled his utmost expectation.

The corps reviewed the second day were more than fourteen thousand men. All Britain displayed the same spirit; and the number, thus voluntarily enrolled for the national defence, fell little short of half a million.

It was remarked as very extraordinary, that at neither of these splendid and interesting occasions did the Prince of Wales make his appearance. The reason, if it may be called such, was afterwards explained, in the publication of a correspondence that had taken place during the summer, between his Royal Highness and Mr. Addington, and next between the Prince, the King, and the Duke of York.

The Prince demanded, as of right, and a sense of duty, a high military command, suited to his station; but the King refused his consent, and said, "that His Royal Highness would, if the enemy landed, have an opportunity of showing his zeal at the head of his regiment." This answer, so far from satisfying, displeased the Prince to such a degree, that he renewed his complaint, and his

claim, in terms to which the King would not reply. His Royal Highness then wrote to his brother, the Commander-in-chief, but with no better effect.

When Lord Nelson was informed of this misunderstanding in the royal family, he, with that honest frankness which distinguished his character, vindicated the Sovereign, and observed, that the Prince would have acted wisely in declining, instead of seeking, that high command to which he aspired; and which, as involving a heavy responsibility, might have been attended with serious consequences. The noble admiral was then in the Mediterranean, watching the French fleet at Toulon. From that station, on the 15th of October, he wrote as follows to his illustrious friend, the Duke of Clarence :

“I am absolutely beginning this letter in a fever of the mind. It is as thick as buttermilk, and blowing a Levanter, and the *Narcissus* has just spoke me, to say she boarded a vessel, and they understood that the men had seen, a few days before, twelve sail of ships of war off Minorca. It was in the dusk, and he did not know which way they were steering. This is the whole story, and a lame one. On the 8th, the French fleet, as counted by Captain Boyle, was eight sail of the line, four frigates, and nine corvettes. On the 9th, it blew a tremendous storm at north-west, which lasted till the 12th; since which time, although the *Seahorse* and *Renown* are endeavouring to reconnoitre, it is so thick, that I do not think they can either see into Toulon, or find me if they do. Your Royal Highness will readily imagine my feelings, although I cannot bring my mind to believe they are actually out; but to miss them—God forbid! They are my superiors in numbers, but in every thing else, I believe, I have the happiness of commanding the

finest squadron in the world. If I should miss these fellows, my heart would break.—Oct. 16. The Seahorse spoke me in the night; and made known that the enemy were in the same state as when last reconnoitred, on the 8th. I believe this was the only time in my life that I was glad to hear the French were in port.”

On the 22d of November the King met his parliament, and said, “In the prosecution of the contest in which we are engaged, it shall be, as it has ever been, my first object to execute as becomes me, the great trust committed to my charge.

“Embarked with my brave and loyal people in one common cause, it is my fixed determination, if the occasion should arise, to share their exertions and their dangers, in the defence of our constitution, our religion, our laws, and independence. To the activity and valour of my fleets and armies, to the zeal and unconquerable spirit of my faithful subjects, I confide the honour of my crown, and all those valuable interests which are involved in the issue of this momentous contest.

“Actuated by these sentiments, and humbly imploring the blessings of Divine Providence, I look forward with a firm conviction, that if, contrary to all just expectation, the enemy should elude the vigilance of my numerous fleets and armies, and attempt to execute their presumptuous threat of invading our coasts, the consequences will be to them discomfiture, confusion, and disgrace,—and that our’s will not only be the glory of surmounting present difficulties, and repelling immediate danger, but the solid and permanent advantage of fixing the safety and independence of the kingdom, on the basis of acknowledged strength—the result of its own tried energy and resources.”

The first act of hostility committed by Buonaparte against the King of Great Britain, was the seizure of Hanover; though a distinct state, and always acknowledged as such in every former war. The Duke of Cambridge had just time to effect his escape, when the French army, under Mortier, entered, and took possession of the electorate; where the conduct of these marauders plainly shewed what England had to expect, in the event of a landing on her shores.

‡ The following is but a faint outline of the wretched state of Hanover at this time. It is taken from some private letters, written from thence to some friends in London.

“Ever since the conquest, the electorate has been a scene of pillage and butchery; which is said to yield only to the state of Switzerland in the spring of 1798. The French soldiers have the most unbounded indulgence of their ruling passions, of rapine, cruelty, and lust. In the city of Hanover, and even in the public streets, women of the highest rank have been violated in the presence of their families. The invaders made no distinction between parties; but treated republicans as they did royalists. The Baron de K., a well-known partisan of the French philosophy and politics, went to Mortier, and claimed his protection as an admirer of the revolution. But he found no more favour from the Aga of Sultan Buonaparte’s janisaries, than the most virtuous nobleman in Hanover. The general said, “All Jacobinism is out of fashion now;—go about your business?”

“The political enthusiasts and philosophers of Göttingen, notwithstanding their attachment to the doctrines of equality and perfectibility, were treated in the same

manner. What happens in the great towns, and what befalls persons of rank, are, of course, better known than the calamities of the body of the people. Every village, however, exhibits the same scenes in miniature. The peasants, who have more spirit, patriotism, and loyalty than their superiors, have already, in several parts of the country, been driven to insurrection; many villages, have, in consequence, been burnt to the ground, and two districts have been delivered over to all the horrors of military execution. The whole electorate, which, for its natural advantages was one of the most prosperous countries in the empire, will, in a few months, be laid waste."

The only objects for whom Mortier felt, or pretended to feel, any respect, were the disbanded soldiers of the Hanoverian army. In his letter to Napoleon, he said, "General Walmoden signed the capitulation with an afflicted heart: and it is difficult to paint the situation of the fine regiment of the King of England's guards at dismounting." Another Frenchman, who witnessed the surrender of the Hanoverian cavalry at Altenburg, says, "Some very affecting scenes occurred on this occasion, from the attachment of the soldiers to their faithful companions. One very old dragoon, in particular, and who had the reputation of being the bravest man in the regiment, bathed his horse's head with tears, exclaiming, "My poor friend, I am no longer permitted to take care of thee! Thou wilt die, for want of having Hermann by thy side!"

It was now very evident, that whatever might be the personal merits of Mr. Addington, or his qualifications for the chair of the House of Commons, he possessed not the comprehensive talent necessary to conduct the

affairs of a great nation, especially in time of war. Finding his situation untenable, he therefore gave in his resignation; and on the 7th of May, 1804, Mr. Pitt once more became prime minister.

On the 30th of the same month, Mr. Wilberforce renewed his motion for the abolition of the slave trade, which was supported by Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, and carried, on a division; the numbers being, for the abolition of the traffic, one hundred and twenty-four, to forty-nine, voices. In consequence of this decision, a bill was brought in for limiting the latest period at which ships were allowed to clear out from an English port, on this trade, to the first of October in the present year. The debates on the bill were long and animated; but the third reading was carried on the 28th of June by a majority of sixty-nine to thirty-three votes.

The bill was sent up to the Lords the same day; when the Duke of Clarence asserted, that he could shew, from the evidence of ocular demonstration, that the trade was not deserving of the imputations cast upon it; and he was prepared to prove, that the abolition of it would be productive of extreme danger. On the 3d of July, when the second reading of the bill was moved, Lord Hawkesbury's amendment, that it be read this day three months, was carried without a division.

At the close of this session, an addition to the civil list was made, in consequence of an annual deficiency therein, by which a considerable debt had been incurred. In the course of the debate, some observations were made upon two advances, of fifteen thousand pounds each, to the Duke of Clarence, to be repaid at seven hundred and fifty pounds every quarter; but it did not appear that any instalment had been made. On the 31st, parliament was prorogued.

The elevation of Napoleon to the Imperial dignity in the month of May, this year, was not an event to excite surprise, among those who had paid the least attention to his character and conduct. But every one, whether of the number of his admirers or enemies, wondered at his meanness, in endeavouring to procure from Louis the Eighteenth, a renunciation of all right and title to the crown of France. The answer of the royal exile was as dignified as the proposal was base. "I cannot pretend to know," said Louis, "what may be the intentions of the Almighty respecting my race and myself; but I am well aware of the obligations imposed upon me by the rank to which he was pleased I should be born. As a Christian, I shall continue to fulfil these obligations to my last breath. As a descendant of St. Louis, I shall endeavour to imitate his example, by respecting myself—even in captivity and chains. As successor of Francis the First, I shall at least aspire to say with him,—We have lost every thing but our honour."

In this noble sentiment and resolution, the king was joined by all the princes of the house of Bourbon. Napoleon, instead of paying the tribute of respect which such exalted principles deserved, next set his engines at work to cut off the king and the whole family. His first design failed; but he unfortunately succeeded in seizing the Duke d'Enghien on neutral ground, and caused him to be butchered at midnight.

Yet, as if the possession of the sovereign power had not been simply enough of itself to gratify the ambition of the assassin, he called in religion, to sanction his usurpation; and the head of the Catholic church degraded his function, by becoming a principal in the sacrilegious farce of the Imperial coronation.

On the 4th of October, 1804, died suddenly, in the county of Berwick, Adam Lord Duncan. He was born at Dundee in 1731, and, being a younger son, entered early into the navy, in which service he found a steady patron in Commodore, afterwards Lord Keppel, with whom he sailed on the expedition to the Havannah, where Captain Duncan commanded the boats.

In 1779, he was placed in a situation of peculiar delicacy, by being a member of the different courts-martial held on his friend Admiral Keppel, and Sir Hugh Palliser. No greater proof could be given of his moderation and integrity, than that, at a time when party rage ran high, his conduct was never subjected to the slightest reproach, or the charge of partiality.

At the conclusion of the same year, he commanded the *Monarch*, under Admiral Rodney. Though his ship was neither coppered, nor remarkable for sailing, Captain Duncan found means to get foremost of all the fleet in the action with *Langara*; and, on being warned of the danger of attacking alone three of the enemy's squadron, which were at no great distance, he coolly replied, "I wish to be among them." Accordingly, he soon came alongside of a Spanish vessel, of equal force with the *Monarch*; while the other two, of the same magnitude, lay within musket-shot to leeward. A spirited action began, and continued for some time; during which the *Monarch* was exposed to the fire of her three adversaries: that, however, from the two leeward ships suddenly ceased, and they left their companion to shift for herself. She soon after struck, and proved to be the *San Augustin*, of seventy guns; but, on boarding the prize, she was found in such a disabled state, that it was deemed advisable to abandon her: the two frigates

were pursued and taken, by some of the other English ships.

In 1789, Captain Duncan was promoted to the rank of Rear-admiral; and in 1795, he obtained the command of the North Sea fleet. The rest of his professional history has already been narrated.

Two circumstances may, however, here be added, illustrative of the character of this great man. On the cessation of the battle off Camperdown, Admiral Duncan assembled the crew of the *Venerable*, and, kneeling down, with his own voice returned thanks to the Almighty for the victory which had crowned his arms.

When the Dutch commander, De Winter, came on board the *Venerable*, he was received by the victor with all the refined courtesy which distinguishes modern European warfare; and soon after, the two admirals sat down together to a game at picquet.

Lord Duncan's figure was tall and majestic, being above six feet high. His countenance was expressive of magnanimity, joined with a great degree of candour and gentleness. His piety was sincere, and without ostentation; and his social virtues made him universally beloved in the circle of his private friends. It was observed, that Admiral De Winter and Admiral Duncan very much resembled each other in height and features.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1805 to 1807.

BUONAPARTE having gained the highest seat of ambition, announced his elevation, with a proposal for peace, to the King of Great Britain, in a letter dated the 2d of January, 1805. The mode of conveyance was no less curious than the composition itself. The Tickler gun-brig being off Boulogne on the 7th, fell in with a fishing-vessel which had on board a French officer, who told the commander that he had a despatch from Talleyrand to Lord Harrowby, and which had been sent express from Paris, with orders for its being forwarded without delay to some of the British cruisers, and that the bearer should accompany it. Upon this, the brig ran into the Downs, and put the officer on board the flag-ship, from whence the letter was sent express to the foreign office the same night.

The letter, as afterwards made public by Talleyrand, was as follows :—

“ To the King of Great Britain.

“ SIR, MY BROTHER,

“ Called to the throne of France by Providence, and by the suffrages of the people and the army, my first sentiment is a wish for peace. France and England abuse their prosperity. They may contend for ages : but do their governments well fulfil the most sacred of their duties? and will not so much blood, shed uselessly, and without a view to any end, accuse

them in their own consciences? I consider it as no disgrace to make the first step. I have, I hope, sufficiently proved to the world, that I fear none of the chances of war: it, besides, presents nothing that I need to fear. Peace is the wish of my heart; but war has never been contrary to my glory. I conjure your Majesty not to deny yourself the happiness of giving peace to the world, nor to leave that sweet satisfaction to your children; for, in fine, there never was a more fortunate opportunity, nor a moment more favourable to silence all the passions, and listen only to the sentiments of humanity and reason.

“This moment once lost, what end can be assigned to a war, which all my efforts will not be able to terminate? Your Majesty has gained more within ten years, both in territory and riches, than the whole extent of Europe. Your nation is at the highest point of prosperity; what can it hope from war? To form a coalition of some powers on the Continent? The Continent will remain tranquil; a coalition can only increase the preponderance and continental greatness of France.—To renew internal troubles? The times are no longer the same.—To destroy our finances? Finances, founded on a flourishing culture, can never be destroyed.—To take from France her colonies? Colonies to France are only a secondary object; and does not your Majesty already possess more than you know how to preserve?—If your Majesty would but reflect; you must perceive that the war is without an object, without any presumable result to yourself. Alas! what a melancholy prospect; to cause two nations to fight for the sake of fighting! The world is sufficiently large for our two nations to live in it: and reason sufficiently powerful, to discover means of reconciling every thing, when the wished-for reconciliation exists on both sides. I have, however, fulfilled a sacred duty, and one which is precious to my heart. I trust your Majesty will believe in the sincerity of my sentiments, and my wish to give you every proof of it.

(Signed)

“NAPOLÉON.”

This extraordinary epistle received the following answer, addressed to Talleyrand :

“ His Majesty has received the letter, which has been addressed to him by the head of the French government, dated the 2nd of the present month. There is no object which his Majesty has more at heart, than to avail himself of the first opportunity to procure again to his subjects the advantages of a peace, founded on a basis which may not be incompatible with the permanent security and essential interests of his states. His Majesty is persuaded that this end can only be attained by arrangements, which may at the same time provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe, and prevent the recurrence of the dangers and calamities in which it is involved.

“ Conformably to this sentiment, his Majesty feels that it is impossible for him to answer more particularly to the overture that has been made him, until he shall have had time to communicate with the powers of the Continent, with whom he is engaged in confidential connexions and relations, and particularly with the Emperor of Russia, who has given the strongest proofs of the wisdom and elevation of the sentiments with which he is animated, and the lively interest which he takes in the safety and independence of Europe.

(Signed) “MULGRAVE.”

At the very time that Buonaparte was making this ridiculous parade of affected moderation, his plans were organizing for extending his sovereignty over all Europe. He had already shewn the sincerity of his pretensions to the character of a pacificator, by his conduct to Holland and Spain, both which powers he had bound to his chariot-wheels, and dragged into a ruinous war.

Such was the state of things on the 14th of January, when the Imperial Parliament was opened by the King in person, who, after noticing the Spanish declaration

of war, and the recent overture of the French government, said, "In considering the great efforts and sacrifices which the nature of the contest requires, it is a peculiar satisfaction to me, to observe the many proofs of the internal wealth and prosperity of the country."

His Majesty having retired, the Right Honourable Henry Addington, now created Viscount Sidmouth, was introduced, and took his seat on the ministerial bench, as lord president of the council. On the other side of the house were the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, with a great number of the leading members of the opposition party.

The address, which, as usual, was a mere echo of the speech, having been moved and seconded, the Earl of Carlisle said he would not anticipate any discussion on the Spanish war, till the house should be in possession of the necessary documents to form a judgment of its policy and justice.

Lord Hawkesbury replied, that he had no doubt it would appear, not only that the laws of nations had been strictly observed by us, but that nothing had taken place derogatory to the British character.

The Duke of Clarence then rose, and said, that though he heartily concurred in the address, yet he could not help expressing some apprehension, that, from the mode in which the noble secretary of state had mentioned the war with Spain, there was a great deal in that business which would require explanation.

This alluded to the circumstance of our taking three out of four Spanish ships, laden with treasure from South America, on the 5th of October, and previous to the declaration of war. The fourth ship blew up, and all but forty-six persons on board perished. To justify

this act, it was stated that the Spaniards had an armament then ready to put to sea at Ferrol; and that the arrival of the treasure ships was only waited for, to commence hostilities. This, however, was far from being considered as a satisfactory plea; and the legality of the caption was called in question, not only abroad, but in parliament.

In the House of Lords, the seizure of the Spanish ships, without giving specific notice, was severely censured by Earl Spencer and Lord Grenville, as a species of piracy. The Duke of Clarence joined in this view of the case; but Lord Sidmouth vindicated the measure, as being strictly consonant with the law of nations, and the principles of common justice.

On the 8th of March, Lord King, after taking an extensive survey of the different plans of defence that had been resorted to within the last two years, moved, that a committee be appointed to revise the acts passed in the two last sessions for the defence of the country, and to consider of such further measures as might be necessary for that purpose.

Earl Camden and Lord Hawkesbury resisted the motion, which was vigorously supported by the Duke of Clarence, and several of his noble friends, who mustered very strong in opposition to ministers, though without effect.

On the 25th of May, another attack was made by Lord Darnley, in a motion for the appointment of a select committee to take under consideration the state of the navy, and the conduct of the admiralty board. Lord Melville entered into a long defence of his administration at the head of the marine department, and particularly justified the building and repairing ships in private

dock-yards ; by which measure, the service, he said, had greatly profited. His lordship was answered by his predecessor, Earl St. Vincent, who said he was convinced that the vessels built in the king's yards were far superior to those built by contract. He thought the navy board was highly reprehensible, and totally inefficient. There was not, he observed, one man at that board adequate to the duties of it. His lordship concluded by declaring, that he should think it an injustice done to himself, if the committee was not appointed.

ne Duke of Clarence spoke also in favour of the motion. His Royal Highness said, he himself had been witness to the grossest and most flagitious acts of misconduct in many persons, from the highest down to the lowest in office, relative to the management in the dock-yards. As to the Sixth Report of the Committee of Naval Inquiry, unless his Majesty's ministers thought proper to take some step relative to it, he pledged himself to bring the subject under the consideration of the house immediately after the commencement of the next session.

Several speeches having been made on both sides, the motion was negatived by eighty-eight to thirty-three voices.

On the 25th of August, the royal family sustained a loss in the death of Prince William-Henry, Duke of Gloucester. His Royal Highness was born on the 25th of November, 1743 ; and married, September 6th, 1766, Maria, Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, by whom he had three children : Sophia Maria, born May 29, 1773 ; Caroline Augusta Maria, born June 24, 1774, and died, March 14, 1775 ; and William Frederick, born at Rome, January 15, 1776.

The deceased Duke was a most affectionate father, and

a kind master; nor did he, in any one instance, omit to shew the sincerest attachment to his brother and sovereign. Aloof from all the sordid occurrences of life, and unsullied by political faction, he kept the even tenor of his way; benevolent without ostentation, and dignified without pride. The remains of the royal Duke were privately interred in the family vault at Windsor on the fourth of September; but none of his illustrious relatives, except his son, attended the funeral.

About this time, the Duke of Clarence took under his powerful patronage that extraordinary youth, Master Betty, commonly called the "Young Roscius," whose interests his Royal Highness promoted so vigorously, that the boy was soon enabled to realize a fortune, and retire from the stage before maturity.

The death of Lord Nelson, in the moment of victory, on the 21st of October, off Cape Trafalgar, had an effect similar to that of the immortal Wolfe on the heights of Abraham; both heroes expiring with the satisfaction of knowing that their course had terminated in glory.

How the Duke of Clarence felt on the present occasion, will be seen in the following letter to Admiral Collingwood:

St. James's, November 9, 1805.

"DEAR SIR,

"As a brother Admiral, and as a sincere well-wisher to my King and country, permit me to congratulate you on the most important victory gained on the 21st of October, by your gallant self, and the brave officers, seamen, and royal marines, under your command, and formerly under my lamented and invaluable friend, Lord Nelson. The country laments the hero, and you and I feel the loss of our departed friend. Five-and-twenty years have I lived on the most intimate terms with

Nelson, and must ever, both publicly and privately, regret his loss.

“Earl St. Vincent and Lord Nelson, both in the hour of victory, accepted from me a sword; and I hope you will now confer on me the same pleasure. I have accordingly sent a sword, with which I trust you will accept my sincere wishes for your future welfare. I must request you will let me have the details of the death of our departed friend; and I ever remain, dear Sir,

“Yours unalterably,

“WILLIAM.”

This letter and favour, the gallant Admiral acknowledged in language that did honour to his sensibility and modesty.

“Queen, off Carthagen, December 12, 1805.

“SIR,

“I cannot express how great my gratitude to your Royal Highness is, for the high honour which you have done me by your letter, congratulating me on the success of his Majesty’s fleet against his enemies.

“This instance of condescension, and mark of your Royal Highness’s kindness, to one of the most humble, but one of the most faithful of his Majesty’s servants, is deeply engraved in my heart. I shall ever consider it as a great happiness to have merited your Royal Highness’s approbation, of which the sword which you have presented to me is a testimony so highly honourable to me; for which I beg your Royal Highness will accept my best thanks, and the assurance, that whenever his Majesty’s service demands it, I will endeavour to use it in support of our country’s honour, and to the advancement of His Majesty’s glory.

“The loss which your Royal Highness and myself have sustained in the death of Lord Nelson, can only be estimated by those who had the happiness of sharing his friendship. He

had all the qualities that adorn the human heart, and a head which, by its quickness of perception, and depth of penetration, qualified him for the highest offices of his profession. But why am I making these observations to your Royal Highness, who knew him? Because I cannot speak of him, but to do him honour.

“Your Royal Highness desires to know the particular circumstances of his death. I have seen Captain Hardy but for a few minutes since, and understood from him, that at the time the Victory was very closely engaged in rather a crowd of ships, and that when Lord Nelson was commending some ship that was conducted much to his satisfaction, a musket ball struck him on the left breast. Captain Hardy took hold of him to support him, when he smiled, and said, “Hardy, I believe they have done for me at last.” He was carried below; and when the ship was disengaged from the crowd, he sent an officer to inform me that he was wounded. I asked the officer, if the wound was dangerous. He hesitated; then said, he hoped it was not; but I saw the fate of my friend in his eye, for his look told what his tongue could not utter. About an hour after, when the action was over, Captain Hardy brought me the melancholy account of his death. He inquired frequently how the battle went, and expressed joy when the enemy were striking; in his last moment shewing an anxiety for the glory of his country, though regardless of what related to his own person.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your Royal Highness’s

“Most obedient and most humble Servant,

“E. COLLINGWOOD.”

At the solemn funeral of the great hero, on the 9th of January, 1806, the Duke of Clarence, with his brothers, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, attended, and formed part of the procession from the Admiralty to St. Paul’s Cathedral.

On the 28th of the same month, Lord Hawkesbury moved the thanks of the upper house of Parliament to the Admirals Collingwood, Lord Northesk, and Sir Richard Strachan, with the captains and other officers, seamen, and marines, of the fleet.

Upon this occasion, the Duke of Clarence, in seconding the motion, entered into a review of the professional life of Lord Nelson. His Royal Highness stated, that one of the most excellent features in the character of his late noble and gallant friend, was that devout sense of religion, which he preserved under every circumstance to the last moment of his glorious career. As a proof of what he asserted, he would, with the permission of the house, read the last lines which Lord Nelson had written. So composed was he, that when the fleet was advancing to force the enemy's line, and before the firing began, which, in fact, did not commence till the line had been broken, he sat down, and wrote what he should now read. The illustrious Duke then read a prayer, the first sentence of which was to the following purport:—"May Almighty God, whom I worship with all my heart, for the sake of my country and of all Europe, grant me a glorious victory." The last sentence expressed his determination "not to forget the duties of humanity," and the prayer concluded with "Amen, Amen, Amen."

The death of Lord Nelson was followed by that of Mr. Pitt, which event happened at his villa, on Putney Heath, in the morning of Thursday, the 23d of January, 1806. His health had been for some time in a declining state; but the illness which terminated fatally, originated in extreme anxiety, and intense application to business. His whole nervous system was so deranged, that, for

weeks together, he could not sleep, and this privation of rest led to a general breaking up of the constitution.

The day before he died, he received the sacrament, from the hands of his venerable tutor and friend, the Bishop of Lincoln, in the most composed and resigned state of mind. He repeatedly expressed to the prelate, who sat up with him all night, the sense he had of his own unworthiness, and a firm reliance on the mercy of God, through the merits of Christ. His last words were, "Oh, my country !"

On the 27th, the House of Commons voted, that the funeral of the deceased minister should be at the public expense, and that a monument should be erected to his memory, in the collegiate church of Westminster.

This motion, however, was not carried without opposition ; and among its opponents, to the astonishment of the world, was Mr. Windham, the very man who had been his active coadjutor throughout the whole of the late war. Mr. Ryder did no more than justice, in saying, "that the Right Honourable Gentleman had evinced an heroic disregard of every natural, and every moral feeling ; and that his conduct would, no doubt, serve as a warning to his new political associates."

This motion was succeeded by another, for the grant of forty-thousand pounds to discharge the debts of Mr. Pitt. This proposition passed unanimously. Mr. Fox, in supporting it, said, Mr. Pitt was minister twenty years, and, excepting the Cinque Ports, he never heard of any thing he had obtained of an advantageous nature. He considered him as a person eminently disinterested, and that this was the appropriate reward for disinterestedness.

The death of this great statesman was the dissolution of the administration ? but, previous to the formation of

a new cabinet, Lord Hawkesbury secured to himself the wardenship of the Cinque Ports, well knowing, that the party now coming into power, would set aside any pretensions he might have to the appointment.

On the 3d of February all the political arrangements were settled—Lord Grenville being at the head of the board of treasury; Charles Fox, foreign secretary; Thomas Erskine, lord chancellor; Lord Howick, first lord of the admiralty; and the other offices filled by their friends.

The attachment of the Duke of Clarence to the new ministry appeared conspicuously on the 10th of February, when, with the Duke of Bedford and Lord Howick, he accompanied Lord Erskine to the Court of Chancery, where that nobleman took the oaths, and his seat on the bench.

At this time the whole Continent, with the exception of Russia, lay prostrate at the feet of Napoleon, who, after the battle of Austerlitz on the 2nd of December, and the treaty of Presburg, which immediately succeeded it, was enabled to assume a higher tone than ever, in addressing his servile senate. On the 5th of March, he ascended the throne in majestic pomp, and said, “Since your last meeting, the greater part of Europe has been united with England; but my armies never ceased to conquer, until I ordered them to cease to combat. I have avenged the cause of the weak states which were oppressed by the strong. My allies have acquired increased power and consideration. My enemies are subdued and abashed. The House of Naples has for ever lost its crown. The whole Peninsula of Italy belongs to the Great Empire. I, as the Chief of that Empire, am the guarantee of the sovereigns and constitutions by which its several parts are governed.”

After dilating in this strain upon his personal achievements, and the glory of France, the conqueror deigned to acknowledge that one circumstance of an untoward nature had occurred. In consequence of a battle, imprudently commenced, said he, "we have lost some ships by the storms." Having thus noticed the defeat of his fleet, Napoleon added, "I desire peace with England. Not a moment's delay shall it experience on my part. I shall be ready always to conclude it, taking for its basis the treaty of Amiens."

This declaration occasioned a correspondence between Mr. Fox and Talleyrand, the result of which was, the appointment of Lord Yarmouth, now Marquis of Hertford, to the office of negociator; but he was soon succeeded by the Earl of Lauderdale.

On the 12th of June this year, the trial of Lord Melville, by impeachment, before the peers in Westminster Hall, terminated in an acquittal of all the charges. The Prince of Wales took no part in the proceedings; and his brothers were divided. The Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Sussex, voted Lord Melville guilty of several of the charges; while the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Cambridge, pronounced him not guilty, on the whole matter of accusation.

In this session of Parliament, which terminated on the 23d of July, the incomes of the junior branches of the Royal Family were increased; that of the Duke of Clarence and his younger brothers was raised from twelve to eighteen thousand pounds a year.

During the summer, public curiosity was strongly excited, but not gratified, by an inquiry, instituted at the command of the King, into the conduct of the Princess of Wales, on charges of the most serious nature, alleged

against her by Sir John and Lady Douglas. The investigation was conducted by the noble commissioners, Erskine, Grenville, Spencer, and Ellenborough, with great secrecy; nor were the particulars made public for some years. The result was, however, favourable to the Princess, and there the matter ended for the present. While the examination was going on, the Prince and the Duke of Clarence made a tour through the northern part of England. On Thursday, the 29th of September, the royal brothers visited Liverpool, where they were sumptuously entertained by the Corporation, who presented the Prince with the freedom of the borough in a gold box, which His Royal Highness graciously accepted. The Duke of Clarence had before received that mark of respect; and his portrait at full length, for which he was pleased to sit to Mr., now Sir Martin Shee, at the request of the same body, adorned the grand hall where the illustrious guests were entertained.

While the two Princes were on this tour, the administration, which had been so lately formed, suffered a severe shock by the death of Mr. Fox, whose remains on the 10th of October, were deposited by the side of his great rival, Mr. Pitt, in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Fox had for a considerable time laboured under a dropsical complaint, which in the middle of June bore such an alarming appearance, that the physicians declared it necessary he should refrain from business. On the 7th of August he underwent the operation of tapping, when about sixteen quarts of water were extracted. The next day, the Prince of Wales came from Brighton, on purpose to visit his friend, and expressed the satisfaction he felt at finding him much relieved. This, however, as in most cases, was but a temporary respite.

The symptoms returned with accumulated force ; and on the 13th of September, this eminent politician, and accomplished orator, expired.

Three days after the interment of Mr. Fox, his friend Lord Lauderdale arrived in London, to report the fate of his mission to France. It appeared that, in all his interviews with Talleyrand, his lordship had met with nothing but evasion, chicanery, and deceit. During the time of his stay, the French government was busily engaged in preparations for an attack upon Prussia ; and it was not until Napoleon and Talleyrand had left Paris to join the grand army, that the English minister thought of moving. His lordship, indeed, was kindly offered such accommodation as the country-house of General Junot afforded, for the benefit of his health ; but being of opinion that his native air would be more salubrious, he demanded his passports, which, after much delay, and not a little insult, he obtained.

Thus ended a negociation, which, from the very beginning, was inauspicious, and soon rendered England ridiculous in the eyes of all Europe. It, however, completely answered the purpose of Napoleon, whose designs began to be developed, in a treaty which detached Bavaria, Wirtemberg, and several other minor states, from their connexion with the German empire, and, by the name of the Confederation of the Rhine, placed them under the protection of France. The next step adopted for the dissolution of the Germanic constitution, was the degradation of the Emperor Francis, who, on the 7th of August, became the herald of his own disgrace, by publishing an explicit renunciation of the Imperial crown, and taking in exchange the inferior title of Emperor of Austria.

Alarmed by these strides of gigantic ambition, the king of Prussia now changed his conduct, and renewed his connection with Britain. But it was too late: the French, with Napoleon at their head, entered Prussia on the 8th of October, and, on the 14th, the battle of Jena decided the fate of that country. The king retreated from the field with his guards, and the Duke of Brunswick was mortally wounded. From this time no effectual resistance was made by the Prussians; and, on the 27th, Victor made his grand entry into Berlin. In the proclamation which Napoleon issued from Potsdam, he announced his intention to march immediately against the Russians, who would, he said, if they advanced, "find another Austerlitz in Prussia." He concluded his philippic with this emphatic comment on the recent negociation with the British government: "We will be no longer the sport of a treacherous peace. And we will not lay down our arms, till we have obliged the English, those eternal enemies of our nation, to renounce the scheme of disturbing the Continent, and the tyranny of the seas." This declaration was followed up by the confiscation of all British merchandise at Hamburgh, and other ports and territories occupied by the French armies. Marshal Mortier was entrusted with the execution of this edict, and he fulfilled his commission with a rigour which the inhabitants of Hamburgh have not forgotten to this day.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1807 TO 1809.

SUCH was the gloomy state of affairs when Parliament re-assembled on the 2nd of January, 1807. Lord Grenville in the Upper, and Lord Howick in the Lower House, moved an address to the King; the tenor of which was, to express their approbation of his Majesty's efforts to restore the blessing of peace. Long debates ensued, but the address was carried without opposition.

On the same day, Lord Grenville introduced a bill for the abolition of the slave trade, which, after a few observations from the Duke of Clarence, was read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

On the 5th of February, the order of the day for the second reading of the bill having been read, Lord Grenville repeated all his former arguments against this nefarious traffic, and concluded his speech with a brilliant encomium upon the talents, virtue, and perseverance of Mr. Wilberforce, to whom millions yet unborn, he said, would be indebted for liberty and happiness.

The Duke of Clarence rose, and said, he was glad to find that the negroes now employed in the laborious business of our colonial establishments, were not to be included in the present arrangements, but were to be permitted to fulfil their important duties. He was pleased also to find it admitted, that those at present concerned in the African trade, had engaged in their commercial pursuits under

the sanction of Parliament. Much had been misapprehended on the nature and circumstances of the traffic itself, by persons who had no local knowledge on the subject. With respect to himself, the habits of his life had given him opportunities of knowing the facts from the best authorities ; and he had visited every one of the islands, where he had conversed with some of the most skilful and experienced persons, on their culture, produce, climate, and population.

It was a little singular, that, after exhibiting a style of declamatory accusation against the planters, not unusual on this subject, the noble lord (Grenville) had adduced but one or two insulated examples of cruelty towards the negroes, to support all his broad and confident assertions. The truth was, that human nature was much the same in every country ; and that the planters, as well as their lordships, had hearts sensible to the calamities of their fellow-beings. It was useless to resign this trade, for other nations would pursue it, if we abandoned it, and under circumstances much less conducive to the comfort of the Africans ; the idea, then, of abolishing the trade, was nugatory and absurd : it might be transferred into worse hands, but it would still be persevered in, with all the distresses, and many more, which the enemies of this commerce were so fond of detailing. The situation of St. Domingo was a warning not to try experiments unnecessarily. The population of that rich country had been reduced, since the insurrection, from 250,000 to 100,000 souls ; and whether the same horrors were to be experienced in the adjacent islands, in consequence of these new projects, was yet a matter of uncertainty. Among the effects of such measures, one must be, that his Majesty, by the multi-

tude of seizures, (for the whole navy of England could not prevent the trade,) would become the greatest slave merchant in the world. Another consequence to be apprehended was, that the maritime strength of the nation would be destroyed; for on the African trade, more than any other resource, depended the supply of our navy, which had rendered the name of Britain glorious in every part of the world. A third result would be, that the revenues of the state would be largely diminished, from which the supplies for that navy must be drawn.

Many illustrious characters had been mentioned, who had not only approved, but contributed to the establishment of this commerce: from the circle of his own immediate acquaintance, he could add several others, who concurred in the same sentiment, and who were an ornament to their profession. Among these, he might mention a gallant admiral, with whom he was allied in the closest intimacy, Lord Nelson, who had received, on numerous occasions, the enthusiastic applause of a grateful people. Should the bill pass, he had no doubt that the supporters of it would soon regret their precipitation; and if the present ministers continued so long in office, he entertained no doubt, that, in three or four years, they would retrace their steps, and apply to parliament that the trade might be again resumed. But be the event what it would in other respects, to his mind it was perfectly clear, that, without this trade, the West Indies must be lost to Britain; and without the West Indies, not only the dignity and prosperity of the nation was gone, but its very existence as an independent empire would cease.

The Duke of Gloucester took up the argument in opposition to his royal cousin, and declared, that he was ready to meet the question either on the ground of the

inhumanity, or the expediency, of the commerce. His Highness detailed some shocking instances of the cruelty of the slave-dealers ; and observed, that the population had been retarded in the West Indies by the severity with which the negroes were treated.

Earl St. Vincent, on the other hand, said, that, from his own experience, he was enabled to state, that the West India islands formed a paradise itself to the negroes, in comparison with their native country. Knowing this, he was surprised at the proposition before the house ; and, considering the high character and intelligence of the noble mover, he declared that he could account in no other way for his bringing it forward, than by supposing some Obi-man had cast his spell upon him.

The Earl of Northesk replied to his brother admiral, and observed, that if humane treatment were practised towards the negroes, he was certain, from his knowledge of the colonies, that a sufficient supply would be kept up for every purpose of cultivation ; but such treatment, the good effects of which he had witnessed in some islands, was not, he much feared, likely to become general, unless the planters were precluded from obtaining further supplies by importation. As to what Earl St. Vincent had said, with respect to the celestial comforts of the slaves, he was disposed to think, that, however long the noble lord might have been stationed in the West Indies, he had seen very little of the interior of the colonies, or he would not have made the assertion.

After several other peers had delivered their sentiments, the motion for the second reading was carried, by a majority of sixty-four ; and on the 10th, the bill was sent down to the Commons ; where it finally passed on the 22d of March, and on the 25th it received the royal assent.

With the completion of that important measure, the existence of the administration terminated.

This extraordinary occurrence originated in a dislike expressed by the King to a bill introduced by Lord Howick into the House of Commons, on the 5th of March, "for allowing all persons professing the Roman Catholic religion to serve his Majesty in the army and navy, and to enjoy the free exercise of that religion."

The sovereign, at first, was misled into the belief that the bill now proposed, was nothing more than the extension of an act passed in the Irish Parliament, in the year 1793, by which Catholic officers there, were allowed the exercise of their religion, without any test. Now, as in the event of such officers being ordered to England with their regiments, the Irish act would not protect them, it seemed advisable that the same should be made effectual in their behalf, but in their behalf only. Unfortunately, however, the present bill was so constructed, that all persons serving in the navy and army would have been released from the former oaths and tests. As soon as the King perceived this, he expressed his disapprobation in strong terms, and the bill was withdrawn.

To prevent the possible recurrence of such a measure, his Majesty demanded a pledge from ministers, that they would not renew the Catholic question in any shape. This pledge they refused to give, and their ejection from office immediately followed. Three of the number were adverse to the conduct of their colleagues in this business; Lord Sidmouth, Lord Erskine, and Mr. Sheridan: but they were displaced with the rest. To the two latter, the loss was great; for their circumstances were such, that they could ill afford to relinquish the emoluments of office. Sheridan avenged himself by a bitter sarcasm

on his associates, for their temerity in bringing forward the Catholic question.

“Why did they not put it off, as Fox did?” said he, “I have heard of men running their heads against a wall; but this is the first time I ever heard of men building a wall, and squaring and clamping it, for the express purpose of knocking out their brains against it.”

Lord Erskine, in his place, professed himself in principle an enemy to the Catholic Bill; and, therefore, could not but highly approve of and admire the firmness displayed on the present occasion by his Majesty.

At the head of the new cabinet was placed the Duke of Portland, as first lord of the treasury; Lord Eldon took the great seal; Mr. Perceval became chancellor of the exchequer; Lord Mulgrave was appointed to the admiralty; and Mr. Canning, Lord Hawkesbury, and Lord Castlereagh, were the new secretaries of state.

This change was succeeded by a general election, which was very vigorously contested in every part of the kingdom; and, perhaps, upon no former occasion, except the dissolution of the coalition ministry, were the feelings so strongly excited, as they now were, by the cry of “No Popery.”

The new parliament assembled on the 22d of June, when a trial of strength took place between the late ministers and their successors, on amendments to the address. But the result was a triumph to the present cabinet; the majorities in both houses being so great, as to establish their solidity upon a firm basis. It does not appear that the Duke of Clarence took any part in these transactions, nor does his name occur in the debates that arose out of them.

On the 14th of August, this short parliamentary ses-

sion closed, when the Chancellor, in the name of the King, said, "His Majesty trusts that his people will always be ready to support him in every measure which may be necessary to defeat the designs of his enemies against the independence of his dominions; and to maintain against any undue pretensions, and against any hostile confederacy, those just rights, which his Majesty is always desirous to exercise with temper and moderation; but which, as essential to the honour of his crown, and the true interests of his people, he is determined never to surrender."

This was an allusion to the combination of the northern powers against Great Britain, in consequence of the defeat of the Russians in the battle of Friedland. The conference at Tilsit, which followed that event, compelled the Emperor Alexander and Frederick-William to oppose their old and faithful ally; and accordingly all the ports in the north were shut against British commerce.

Under these circumstances, another attack upon Copenhagen became expedient, as a measure of precaution and self-defence. On the 18th of July, a fleet, under the command of Admiral Gambier, sailed from Yarmouth roads; and on the 26th, another squadron under Admiral Essington, with one hundred transports, containing fifteen thousand troops, followed. Meanwhile, Mr. Jackson was sent to the court of Denmark, for the purpose of effecting, by an amicable negociation, that which otherwise must be done by force. The condition upon which the minister had orders to insist, was, the delivery of the Danish fleet to the British admiral, on an assurance that the whole should be restored at the conclusion of the war with France. The proposition was rejected, a bombardment ensued, and a considerable part of the city

was reduced to ashes. After this waste of property and life, the governor, to prevent total destruction, desired an armistice, to afford time for a capitulation. The articles were soon settled; and eighteen ships of the line, fifteen frigates, with a large quantity of naval stores, were brought to England. In consequence of this breach of neutrality, the Emperor Alexander issued a declaration, in which he engaged never to renew his alliance with Britain till satisfaction should be made to Denmark.

Two circumstances connected with this expedition merit notice, especially as they have not been related in any of the published narratives of the transactions at Copenhagen.

In the year 1785, the Crown Prince of Denmark received from his uncle, the King of England, a sloop of war, as a present. When our fleet carried away the Danish navy, and cleared the arsenal, they left this sloop as a mark of respect. The prince, however, on his return to the capital, ordered that the vessel should be manned by sixteen British sailors, who had been made prisoners, furnished with the necessary provisions, and then sent back to England.

When the prince fled from Copenhagen in disguise, he was taken by the squadron of Sir Richard Keats, in his passage across the Belt. He was immediately recognized; but our people, affecting not to know him, generously permitted him to continue his route.

The generality of the people of Denmark were much displeased with the prince, for provoking hostilities; and refusing to give up a fleet, which he could not defend, and which, besides, was an absolute burden, instead of a benefit, to the nation. One of the most distressing calamities in the bombardment of Copenhagen, happened

to the family of Professor Hornemann. A bomb forced its way into his house, and dreadfully mutilated his three daughters. One had both her legs broken, and the others were maimed in nearly a similar manner.

The conduct of the crown prince to the governor Pieman was very severe and ungrateful. This officer begged, on account of his age, to decline the station to which he was now specially appointed, but no excuse would be admitted. After fulfilling his orders, and defending the city as long as he could, the count signed a treaty, to save the rest of Copenhagen from being reduced to ashes. For this he was thrown into prison, brought to trial, and disgraced.

Napoleon now developed his designs upon the south of Europe. He began with demanding of the court of Lisbon, that it should break off all connexion with Great Britain, imprison the English in Portugal, and confiscate their property. Without waiting for a reply, he seized all the Portuguese vessels that were in the French ports. This was followed by the march of an army into Portugal, upon which the Prince Regent, and the whole royal family of the house of Braganza, embarked in a squadron of English ships, commanded by Sir Sidney Smith, and accompanied by the Portuguese fleet, sailed for Rio de Janeiro.

Such was the state of Britain, when the Duke of Clarence entered upon the forty-second year of his age. Hitherto, his Royal Highness had avoided any thing like public display; but his birth-day was now celebrated at Bushy Park, with a fete that attracted very general notice and observation.

But we shall pass over these ephemeral scenes of festivity, to notice the arrival in England of two fugitives ;

now become the only place of refuge for depressed and persecuted royalty.

On Tuesday, the 7th of July, the Duchess of Brunswick, having lost her husband, and witnessed the ruin of her country, landed from the Clyde frigate at Gravesend, and proceeded to Montagu House, the residence of the Princess of Wales on Blackheath. On Thursday, the King went to visit his sister; and the interview, under such melancholy circumstances, after a separation of more than forty years, was exceedingly affecting.

The corporation of London soon after waited in state upon the venerable duchess, with an address of congratulation, which concluded with these words. "Deeply impressed, Madam, as we are, by the extraordinary events which have occasioned your return, we trust that your Royal and Serene Highness will permit us to express the sincere joy we feel at your restoration to the shores of a free and loyal people; not more attached to a good and venerable King by duty to his supreme and august station, than by affection to his sacred person and family."

To this address her Royal Highness replied briefly, by an expression of her grateful thanks and satisfaction.

By the King's direction, a house was taken and fitted up in Hanover Square for his sister, who preferred a private establishment of her own, upon an economical scale, to a residence in either of the royal mansions. In the following year, parliament voted a grant of ten thousand a year to the Duchess of Brunswick.

On the 3d of November, Louis XVIII., under the title of the Count de Lille, landed at Yarmouth, from a Swedish frigate. This unfortunate descendant of an illustrious line of monarchs, after being driven from one part of Europe to another, sought refuge in Sweden; but having

reason to fear that his person was far from being safe, even in that distant region, he resolved upon coming to England. Here his reception was such as might be expected from the national character. At landing he was welcomed by the magistracy, and all the naval and military officers on the station. Here, also, he had not only the pleasure of meeting his brother, commonly styled Monsieur, (from whom he had been separated fourteen years,) but the Prince of Condé, the Duke of Bourbon, and the Duke of Orleans; all of whom had come thither on Sunday from Castle Howard, where they had been on a visit to the Earl of Carlisle. From Yarmouth, the king and his suite proceeded the next day to a seat of the Marquis of Buckingham in Essex.

The following instance of genuine feeling, in the character of the British seamen, deserves here to be recorded. When Louis quitted the frigate, he was rowed on shore in the barge of Admiral Douglas. As a mark of attention, the king left a purse of fifteen guineas, to be given to the boat's crew, to drink his health. When the money was offered to the men, they all refused to take it; but sent the admiral a letter, *verbatim et literatim*, as follows :

Majestic, 6th day of Nov. 1807.

“ Please your Honour.

“ We holded a talk about that there 15£ that were sent us, and we hope no offence, your honour. We dont like to take it, because as how we knows fast enuff, that it was the true king of France that went with your honour in the boat, and that he and our noble King, God bless 'em both, and give every one his right, is good friends now; and besides that, your honour gived order long ago, not to take no money from nobody, and we never did take none: and Mr. Leneve, that steered your honour and that there king, says he wont have no hand in it, and so

does Andrew Young, the proper coxen ; and we hopes no offence, so we, one and all, begs not to take it at all. So no more at present from your honour's dutiful servants;

“Andrew Young, coxen—James Mann—Lewis Bryan—James Lord—James Hood—W. Edmund—James. Holshan—Thomas Leneve—T. Simmers—Thomas Kerane—Simon Duff—W. Fairclough—John Churchill—T. Lawrence—Jacob Gabriel—William Muzzey.”

This year closed with a circumstance, which paralyzed the mercantile world. On the 22d of December, the American Congress passed what was called a non-intercourse act. In order to avoid the losses, which could not fail to be the consequence of the measures adopted by France and England, to the injury of commerce, the government of the United States took the extraordinary step of laying an embargo upon all American vessels, and prohibiting them from leaving any of their ports ; while, at the same time, ships belonging to other nations were commanded to depart at a short notice, whether laden or not.

Thus Britain, against whom this decree was principally levelled, might be truly said to reign empress of the ocean without a shore.

On the 21st of January, 1808, the parliament was opened by commission, and the King's speech read by the Lord Chancellor. It was very long, and chiefly consisted of a recapitulation of the events that had occurred since the prorogation. It stated, that his Majesty had been apprised of the enemy's intention, after the treaty of Tilsit, to force the neutral powers into co-operation against this country, and to employ the whole naval force of Europe for that purpose, but specifically the fleets of Portugal and Denmark. On this ground, the proceed-

ings relative to those two powers were justified. The speech went on to notice the defection of his Majesty's late allies, Russia, Austria, and Prussia. After glancing at the pretensions made by the United States, as inconsistent with the maritime rights of Great Britain, the speech concluded with asserting, that the sole object of this purely defensive war, was, the attainment of a secure and honourable peace, but which could only be negotiated upon a footing of perfect equality.

In the debates upon the address, the ground taken by the opposition, principally related to the attack upon Denmark, concerning which, some thought, the documentary evidence was unsatisfactory; others considered the measure as a violation of all public right; while ministers defended it on the plea of necessity.

Among the other subjects that came under discussion this session, and in which the public at large took a lively interest, was the bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Bankes, chairman of the committee of finance, for the abolition of grants of places in reversion. It was merely the renewal of what had passed through the commons the preceding year, and which had been prevented from going to the other house by the prorogation. The motion now occasioned some debate, but the bill went through all the necessary forms, and was carried to the lords, where it experienced a vigorous opposition; and, on the motion for the third reading, it was thrown out by a majority of eighty voices; among whom were those of the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Cambridge. Neither of the other royal peers spoke or voted on the question.

Instead of being discouraged by the fate of his bill, Mr. Bankes brought forward another immediately, of a

similar nature, but modified and limited in its duration. By this it was proposed to restrict the crown from granting offices in reversion for one year after the passing of the act, and from the close of that period again to the end of six weeks after the opening of the ensuing session of parliament. The bill in this altered state was more favourably received than the former, and ultimately obtained the royal assent.

The appropriation of the droits of admiralty next came under discussion, at the instance of Sir Francis Burdett, who observed, it was reported that twenty thousand pounds had been lately granted to the Duke of York, and different sums to other branches of the royal family. If such was the case, the honourable baronet asked on what right the crown seized that property, and made such a disposal of it?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the droits of admiralty were, by parliamentary authority, made the property of his Majesty; who had bestowed large portions of the fund on the public, besides making provision out of it for the junior members of his family. There could be no objection, however, to an account of the fund since the year 1792.

In the return, it appeared that, during the year 1805, there had been granted to the Duke of Kent, £10,500; to the Duke of Cumberland, £15,000; to the late Duke of Gloucester, £19,500; and to the Princess of Wales, £20,000. In April, 1806, there had been given to the Duke of Clarence, £20,000; to the Duke of Sussex, £20,000; to the Duke of Kent, £10,000, and to the Duke of Cumberland, £5,000: which, with the grant to the Duke of York, made a total of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand five hundred pounds.

At this period, which was teeming with new and important events, the Duke of Clarence kept up a regular correspondence with Admiral Collingwood, to whom he sent the following letter, dated "Bushy House, May 21, 1808."

"MY DEAR LORD,

"A few days ago, I received your Lordship's letter of the 30th March, which has given me great satisfaction. I am most warmly interested in all your operations, and must be allowed to be a sincere friend and well-wisher to the Navy; for though I have lost one son on board the *Blenheim*, I have just started another with my old friend and shipmate, Keates; and I have another breeding up for the quarter-deck. From the secrecy of those Frenchmen, and their power on the Continent, which are equally known to your Lordship and myself, the affairs of war are more intricate than ever: but in your hands the interests of our country are safe. The great object of the enemy must be Sicily; for your Lordship observes, with as much truth as wisdom, that we cannot maintain ourselves in the Mediterranean without that island. I sincerely trust that the next time the French venture out, your Lordship will fall in with them. The event will speak for itself—another *Trafalgar*. All I ask is, that the life of the gallant Admiral may be spared to his grateful country.

"Your Lordship mentions my approbation and friendship. Had not circumstances, which it is unnecessary to dwell upon, prevented my following our profession, I should have been proud to have seen the word 'approbation' in your Lordship's letter; but, situated as I am, I must to your Lordship confess, that I merit not that epithet: but every individual that does his duty well is sure of my friendship. I need not say more to Lord Collingwood, the bosom friend of my ever-to-be-lamented Nelson.

"I took my second son to Deal, which gave me an opportunity of visiting the different ships there. I was very much

pleased with what I saw, and found the navy infinitely improved. This Country cannot pay too much attention to her naval concerns. We are the only barrier to the omnipotence of France : and it is to our Navy alone that we owe this superiority

“ Though I have not yet the advantage of being personally known to your Lordship, I trust I may be occasionally permitted to take up my pen, and that, as events may arise, your Lordship will favour me with a few lines. I know your time is invaluable. For the present, adieu.

“ Believe me most sincerely interested in your Lordship’s welfare, and in the success of those valuable officers and men under your Lordship’s command.

“ I remain ever, my dear Lord,

“ Yours unalterably,

“ WILLIAM.”

The son, of whom his Royal Highness here speaks as having lost, went to India in the *Blenheim*, Admiral Sir Thomas Trowbridge, and served under that excellent officer on that station from 1803 to 1807, when the ship, on her voyage to England, foundered in a gale of wind off Madagascar, and all on board perished.

Lord Collingwood, in a letter to his lady, says, “I have the kindest letters from the Duke of Clarence. I do not know him personally, but my brother Wilford was intimate with his Royal Highness, and I believe he likes me for Wilford’s sake.”—Captain Wilford Collingwood, here mentioned, commanded the *Rattler* sloop on the Leeward Island station, at the time when Prince William and Nelson were there, to both of whom he rendered great assistance, in detecting and exposing the abuses that had been too long prevalent at Antigua. This valuable officer died of a consumption, April 21, 1787, and was interred with military honours in the island of St. Vin-

cent. How highly he was esteemed by the Prince, and his heroic friend, will appear from Nelson's letter to the surviving brother.

“ Boreas, Nevis, May 3, 1787.

“ MY DEAR COLLINGWOOD,

“ To be the messenger of bad news is my misfortune, but still it is a tribute which friends owe each other. I have lost my friend ; you, an affectionate brother : too great a zeal in serving his country hastened his end. The greatest consolation the survivor can receive, is a thorough knowledge of a life spent with honour to himself, and of service to his country. If the tribute of tears be valuable, my friend had it. The esteem he stood in with His Royal Highness was great. His letter to me on his death, is the strongest testimony of it. I send you an extract from it. ‘ Collingwood, poor fellow, is no more. I have cried for him ; and most sincerely do I condole with you on his loss. In him His Majesty has lost a faithful servant, and the service a most excellent officer.’ A testimony of regard so honourable, is more to be coveted than any thing this world could have afforded, and must be a balm to his surviving friends.”

But we must now turn to another quarter. An important revolution was on the eve of bursting forth with a tremendous effect, where such an event might least have been expected. The treachery of Napoleon, in drawing the royal family of Spain out of the kingdom, and nominating his brother Joseph to the throne, produced a ferment at Madrid, which spread like lightning through all the provinces. The intruding image of Napoleon made his joyous entry into the capital on the 13th of July, and on the 27th of the same month he was obliged to decamp, for fear of falling into the hands of the patriots, who had defeated the French generals, and compelled

their troops to surrender with all their stores and plunder.

It would have been culpable in the British government to have viewed with indifference this interesting event ; but it would have been criminal to have neglected the opportunity it afforded of putting a check to the unjust ambition of the inveterate enemy of Britain. Lord Collingwood left Sicily, and repaired to Cadiz, to assist in capturing the French ships which were in that harbour. That service, however, was accomplished before his arrival by the Spaniards themselves.

The example set by their neighbours was soon followed by the Portuguese ; in support of whom Sir Arthur Wellesly landed near Lisbon, and on the 25th of August gained the battle of Roleia, which was the prelude to the more brilliant and decisive one of Vimiera. In these actions, Colonel Frederick Clarence distinguished himself under the great Captain of the age ; whose career, glorious as it had begun, was nearly suffering a total eclipse by the unfortunate convention of Cintra. That cloud having passed away, though not without producing some serious disasters, among which, the retreat to Corunna, and the fall of Sir John Moore, may be particularly mentioned, Sir Arthur again appeared on the theatre of war, to gather a succession of laurels.

Meanwhile, another son of the Duke of Clarence was actively employed in the same great cause, on board the *Superb*, bearing the flag of Admiral Keates. That officer being off Jutland, where, and in the adjacent parts, above ten thousand Spanish soldiers were cantoned, formed the design of bringing them off, and restoring them to their native land, that they might assist the patriotic cause. For this purpose, the admiral opened a corre-

spondence with the Marquis della Romana; and so well were the arrangements formed, that the whole Spanish army was embarked, before Marshal Bernadotte, the French commander at Hamburg, had any suspicion of the matter.

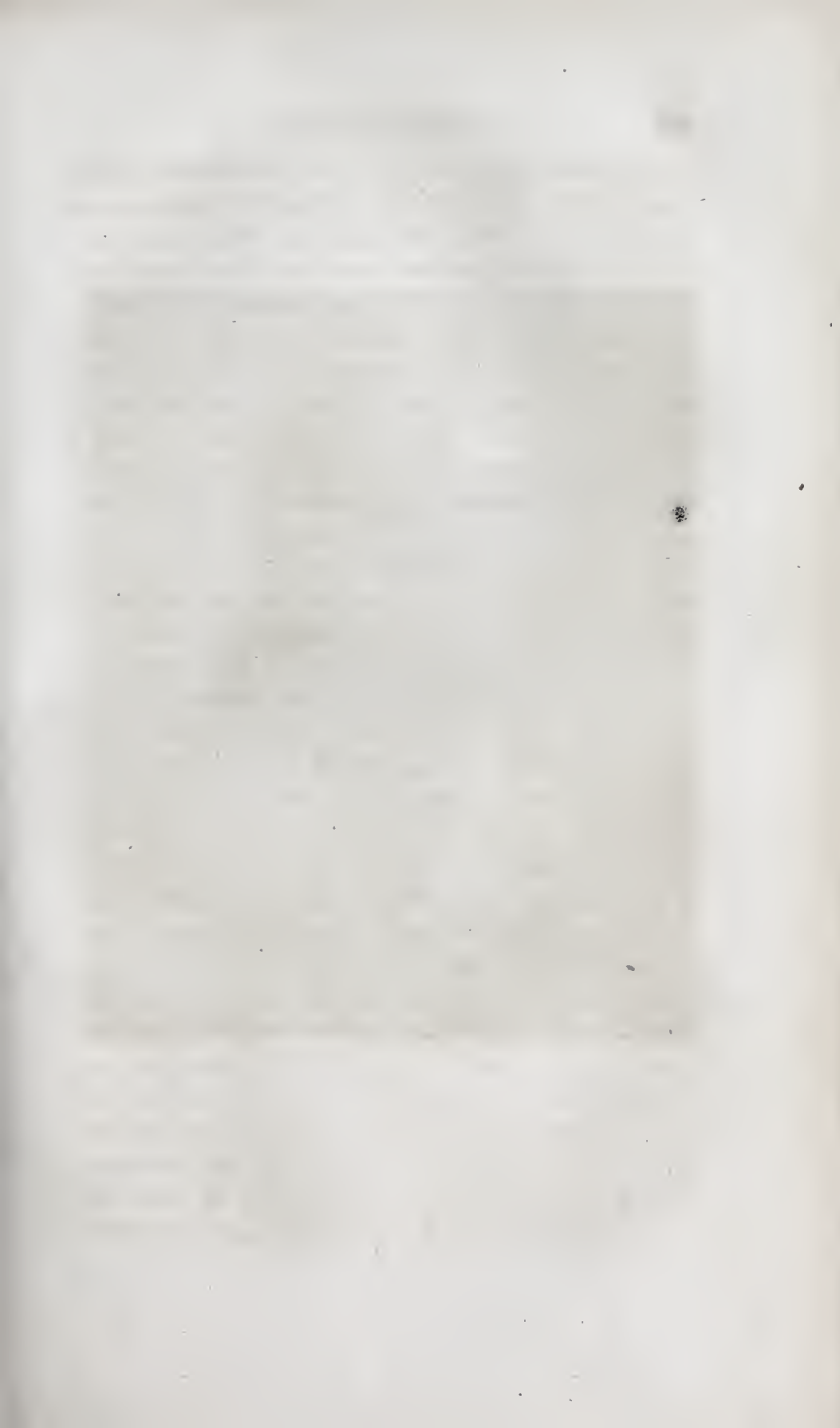
Thus, if the Duke of Clarence, at this critical period, was withheld, contrary to his own wishes, from drawing his sword in active service against the enemy, he appeared in the persons of his four sons—three in the military, and one in the naval service. The eldest, now Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, after remaining a short time at Bushy, on his return from Spain, embarked again for the Peninsula, to fight under the banner of Sir Arthur Wellesley. In one of the numerous actions which took place during the arduous campaign of 1809, his horse was shot, and, being wounded himself in the arm, he became a prisoner. The French chasseur placed his prize behind him, and was galloping off, when the horse fell, and Captain Fitzclarence made his escape.

To this circumstance, probably, Mrs. Jordan alludes in the following passage of a letter, written from Dublin on the 18th of June of that year: "That you would enter into my feelings respecting my dear boy," says she, "I was convinced, when I sent you the extract, as you very rightly supposed I only meant it for your own perusal; for, however gratifying it might be to my feelings to see any testimonial of his good conduct before the world, I have reason to believe that he would be very angry with me, if he thought I had made it public. I only mention this, to shew you that he is an unassuming modest boy; so much so, that we never could get him to speak of the business at Corunna, where he was himself concerned, but the accounts of him from every other quarter were indeed most gratifying."

In another letter, written to the same friend on the 13th of August, from Bushy, she says, "I feel pleasure in writing to you, who so kindly enter into all my feelings. You may easily guess what they were last Monday night, when I heard the account of the battle of Talavera. Five thousand killed ! The Duke at Brighton !—I went to bed, but not to sleep. The Duke set out at five o'clock on the Tuesday, to be the first to relieve me from my misery. I am mentally relieved ; but it has torn my nerves to pieces. I have five boys, and must look forward to a life of constant anxiety and suspense."

The Duke of Clarence at this time was painfully affected by the melancholy fate of his friend, Lord Falkland, a captain in the navy ; who, in the month of February, fell in a duel fought at Chalk Farm with Mr. Powell, another acquaintance of His Royal Highness. What rendered this circumstance more distressing was, the reflection that the catastrophe arose from intemperance ; and that the victim of passion had lost his life, not, like his illustrious ancestor, Lucius Lord Falkland, in the service of his King and country, but in the field of false honour. He left a widow, with several young children, the eldest of whom is now the son-in-law of his father's royal friend.

Another professional acquaintance of the Duke of Clarence, and one of a very superior character, was lost to the service at the beginning of this year. This was Admiral Lord Gardner, who died at Bath on the first of January, and was buried in the Abbey-church of that city. In Rodney's battle of the 12th of April, Captain Alan Gardner, in the Duke, was the first to break the enemy's line, according to the new system then adopted.





H. Robinson sc.

George III

London. Feb 17 1766.

In that of the first of June, 1794, his flag was hoisted, as admiral, in the *Queen*; and on going into action, the veteran commander desired his ship's company "not to fire till they were near enough to singe the Frenchmen's beards."

The present year was marked by two observable circumstances in the history of the royal family; one of a painful, and the other of a pleasing description. The exposure in parliament of the Duke of York's imprudence, while it served to gratify the malignant purpose of party, could not but inflict a severe wound on the feelings of the illustrious members, and firmly attached friends, of the House of Brunswick. Whatever opinion the Duke of Clarence might have formed of the transactions which this disgusting inquiry brought to light, he kept his thoughts to himself, both in and out of parliament.

The anniversary of the accession of George the Third to the throne, on the 25th of October, when the venerable monarch entered upon the fiftieth year of his reign, was observed as a jubilee in the metropolis, and throughout the kingdom. The churches, and all places of public worship, were opened; and in most of them, sermons were preached, appropriate to an event, the like of which had not occurred in the English annals for more than four centuries.

Of the fêtes which were given in celebration of the jubilee, it would be needless now to enter into particulars. They are remembered only as shadows of royal splendour—honourable to the virtues they celebrated, and to the loyal sentiments of those who enjoyed the festivities. But it would be unpardonable to pass unnoticed, the acts of grace which emanated from the

royal benevolence on this memorable day. A general brevet promotion took place in both services. Deserters from the fleet and army received a free pardon. Prisoners on parole, except the French, were permitted to return to their respective countries. All persons confined for debt, at the suit of the crown, were released, unless the parties had been guilty of fraud and violence, especially those who had filled official situations under government. The King also gave two thousand pounds for the liberation of poor debtors in England, one thousand pounds for the same purpose in Scotland, and the like sum to Ireland.

The services of Lord Collingwood during this year were of the utmost importance; though the incessant labour which that great commander underwent, completely ruined his health. In the month of September his Lordship detached part of his fleet on an expedition against the Ionian Islands, four of which were taken by Captain Spranger of the *Warrior*, with some other ships from Malta.

The British admiral was now actively employed in watching the harbour of Toulon, where the French had a large fleet, ready to start with the first opportunity for the relief of their garrison at Barcelona; which was in the greatest distress, being closely blockaded by land and sea.

In the night of the 22d of October, Lord Collingwood, then off St. Sebastian, received information that the French squadron had got out, and that the other ships and transports were on the move. Preparations were immediately made for the reception of the enemy; and, the next morning, signal was given that the French had hauled to the wind, and that the convoy were separating

from the men-of-war, which consisted only of three sail of the line, four frigates, and about twenty transports. Lord Collingwood then ordered Rear Admiral Martin to chase; and, in the pursuit, five of the convoy were destroyed. On the 25th, Admiral Martin fell in with the enemy off the entrance of the Rhone, where he drove ashore two of the line-of-battle ships, which the crews abandoned, after setting them on fire. The *Boreé*, of seventy-four guns, and a frigate, also ran on shore, and were lost. The remainder of the convoy escaped into the bay of Rosas, and took shelter under the castle and batteries, which were very formidable. Notwithstanding this, an attack was resolved upon, and carried into effect, under the direction of Captain Hallowell. That officer, having anchored with his ships about five miles from the castle, detached in the night a number of boats, to bring out, or destroy, the French transports; which desperate service was executed in an admirable style, and, at dawn of day, every ship and vessel was either brought away or burnt.

Of these achievements, Lord Collingwood sent a minute statement, as he did of most of his transactions, to the Duke of Clarence; who acknowledged the receipt of the noble admiral's letter in the following, dated Bushy House, December 9, 1809:

“MY DEAR LORD,

“Your Lordship's agreeable letter of November 3d, from off Cape St. Sebastian, has reached me; and I congratulate you sincerely on the event of Admiral Martin having destroyed the ships of the line, and Captain Hallowell having made an end of the convoy. I am only to lament that the enemy did not give your Lordship and the British fleet an opportunity of doing more; and trust, from the bottom of my heart, that the next

letter which you will have occasion to write, will bring the news of the Toulon squadron being in your Lordship's power. It is odd that the enemy should have selected the 21st of October for sailing! and extraordinary also, that the French should build such fine ships, and handle them so ill. I am glad that your Lordship is satisfied with the conduct of our officers and men on this occasion; and am clearly of opinion, that the lieutenants deserve, and ought, to be promoted. I am for liberal rewards: the gallant Raitt, of course, comes within my ideas of promotion and gratuities. I have ever been, and ever shall be, of opinion, that zeal and bravery ought to be the sole causes of promotion. Your former favourite, the Empress Catherine, knew well this secret of state; and your Lordship's observation is quite correct, that her Imperial Majesty carried the same notions even into her private amusements: "None but the brave," my dear Lord!

"I am glad that Spranger has done his duty, in taking four out of the seven islands, and hope the remainder will soon fall. The enemy must feel very awkward without them, and cannot fail to be interrupted in attempting the Morea.

"My best wishes attend your Lordship, publicly and privately; and believe me ever, my dear Lord,

"Yours most sincerely,

"WILLIAM."

The gallant William Raitt, here noticed with so much honour, was not long after promoted to the rank of post-captain. He had received, before this, a flattering mark of his great commander's approbation, in a letter dated Ville de Paris, 1st August, 1809. "I have seen with satisfaction," said Lord Collingwood, "the zeal and intrepidity which have distinguished your public services on this and other occasions, and the gallantry with which your enterprises have been executed by the officers

and company of the Scout. They have excited my admiration ; and I shall have much pleasure in transmitting to the Lords of the Admiralty a detail, in which your merits are so conspicuous." Captain Raitt died at Aberdeen, his native place, on the 4th of February, 1816, in the forty-third year of his age.

Lord Collingwood did not long survive this service. He was now completely worn out by excessive fatigue, having scarcely been on shore, and never in England, since the victory of Trafalgar. After repeated application for a recall, he struck his flag, and was on his return home, when the disorder, with which he had been long afflicted, put an end to his valuable life, on board the *Ville de Paris*, May the 7th, 1810. The sea was in a state of considerable swell ; and when Captain Thomas said he feared that the motion of the vessel disturbed his lordship, the admiral replied, "No, Thomas : I am now in a state in which nothing can disturb me more. I am dying ; and I am sure it must be consolatory to you, and all who love me, to see how comfortably I am coming to my end." His remains were brought to England, and deposited near his illustrious friend, Nelson, in St. Paul's Cathedral ; where a monument, voted by parliament, has been erected to his memory ; and another has been put up at Newcastle by his family. A mourning-ring having been sent by Lady Collingwood to the Duke of Clarence, his Royal Highness was pleased to express his acknowledgment of the token in the following letter to her ladyship :

"MADAM,

"Bushy House, Saturday Night.

"I this morning received a mourning-ring in memory of the deceased Lord Collingwood, which, of course, I owe to your Ladyship's politeness and attention. No one can regret the

melancholy event of the death of his Lordship more sincerely than I do ; and I feel great concern in having been prevented from attending the funeral. I was informed that the interment was to be quite private, or else I should have made a point of attending the remains of my departed friend to the grave. No one could have had a more sincere regard for the public character and abilities of Lord Collingwood than myself : indeed, with me it is enough to have been the friend of Nelson, to possess my estimation. The hero of the Nile, who fell at Trafalgar, was a man of a great mind, but self-taught : Lord Collingwood, the old companion in arms of the immortal Nelson, was equally great in judgment and abilities, and had also the advantage of an excellent education.

“ Pardon me, Madam, for having said so much on this melancholy occasion ; but my feelings as a brother officer, and my admiration of the late Lord Collingwood, have dictated this expression of my sentiments. I will now conclude, and shall place on the same finger, the ring which your Ladyship has sent me, with a gold bust of Lord Nelson. Lord Collingwood’s must ever be prized by me, as coming from his family : the bust of Lord Nelson I received from an unknown hand, on the day the event of his death reached this country. To me the two rings are invaluable ; and the sight of them must ever give me sensations of grief and admiration.

“ I remain ever, Madam,

“ Your Ladyship’s obedient,

“ and most humble Servant,

“ WILLIAM.”

Cuthbert Collingwood was born of an ancient family at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, September 26, 1750. He went into the navy at the early age of eleven, under the auspices of a near relative, Captain, afterwards Admiral, Brathwaite. In 1775, he became a lieutenant ; and, in

1779, was made post-captain. On the termination of the American war, he married Sarah, the daughter of Mr. Blackett, an eminent merchant of Newcastle—by whom he had two daughters; so that the title fell with the noble admiral, the idea of which hurt him very much. Lady Collingwood died September 17, 1819.

The death of the Princess Amelia, on the second of November this year, though an event which had been long expected, was attended with such affecting circumstances, as could not fail to make a deep impression upon the heart of the Duke of Clarence. At the funeral, which took place by torch-light in the evening of the thirteenth, his Royal Highness, who supported the Prince of Wales on the left, as the Duke of York did on the right, was observed during the service to weep much; and so, indeed, did all the family that were present. The scene was so touching, that there was not an individual spectator who did not sympathize with the royal mourners. If any thing could heighten this afflictive distress, it was the knowledge of the state to which the King had been reduced by his last visit to the dying Princess, when she placed a ring, composed of her hair, upon his finger, and said, "Remember me." From that moment, the external world became a blank to the royal mind; and it was found necessary for parliament to supply the seat of government by a regency.

In the debates upon this important subject, the measures which Mr. Pitt and Lord Thurlow pursued in 1788 and the following year, were now closely adopted as a precedent, and, though vigorously opposed, were carried completely into effect.

The most remarkable speech delivered on this occasion, was that of Mr. Stephen, which for its beauty well de-

serves to be partly extracted. After arguing powerfully in favour of the Regency Bill, he said :

“ There was one passage in the physicians’ report, which could not fail of giving a melancholy pleasure to all who read it : he meant that in which they unanimously attributed his Majesty’s complaint to the affliction of his mind at the sufferings of a beloved child. This statement carried within itself the consolation of a speedy recovery. When the shock by which the system had suffered died away, when the self-supporting energy of the constitution began to act—then the reinstatement might be expected. But, (said Mr. Stephen,) how amiable is the origin of our present calamity ! Who is there that does not sympathize in the feeling by which it has been caused ? Who does not recall the fine description of the poet, whose images not only fire the imagination, but affect the heart :

‘ Some feelings are to mortals given,
With less of earth in them than heaven ;
If there’s a tear—a human tear,
From passion’s drop refined and clear—
A tear so gentle, and so meek,
It would not stain an angel’s cheek,
’Tis that which pious fathers shed
Upon a duteous daughter’s head.’

“ Oh, if such be the ecstasies of paternal love, what must be the agonies of its sorrows ! If such be its enjoyments, how acute must be its pangs ! When I see the father’s solicitude for his child, the sorrow with which he heard of her suffering, the anxiety with which he watched her struggles ; when I see these for weeks and months, how he vibrated between hope and fear, his compassion praying for her release, while his love besought from Heaven her recovery—I am almost affected even to tears. I think I see the poor old parent tottering to the bed of his afflicted child—weeping over her agonies—watching over her progress—with a faltering voice asking for hope in vain—

with sad lamentations, viewing the last beams of her departing spirit, hearing the last throb of her interrupted respiration, and at length, with feeble hand, receiving the fatal ring—the last token of the premature victim, whose most anxious act was the consolation of her aged father's grief, and the justification of his fondness—her life passed in filial love, and shewed “the ruling passion strong in death.”

Ministers having framed their plan of a regency, upon the basis of that which had only been prevented from becoming alaw by the former recovery of the King, submitted the same to the Prince of Wales; who, in answer, observed, that as no step had yet been taken by parliament, he did not think it consistent with his respect for the two houses, to give any opinion on the subject. Meanwhile, he communicated the plan to all the male branches of his family; and, in consequence, the royal Dukes with one consent drew up a declaration and protest against the form of proceeding; which they addressed to Mr. Perceval, for the information of ministers at large. It stated in substance—“That, understanding from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that it was intended to propose to the two houses the measure of supplying the royal authority by the appointment of a Regency, with certain limitations and restrictions as described; they felt it to be their duty to declare, that it was the unanimous opinion of all the male branches of his Majesty's family, that they could not view this mode of proceeding without alarm; as a regency, so restricted, was inconsistent with the prerogatives which were vested in the royal authority, as much for the security and benefit of the people, as for the strength and dignity of the crown itself; and they, therefore, most solemnly protest against this violation of the principles which placed their Family on the throne.”

This protest was subscribed by the Dukes of York, Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, Sussex, Cambridge, and Gloucester.

Mr. Perceval, in his answer, said, that he had submitted the royal document to the consideration of his Majesty's confidential servants. That however much they had to regret that the course of proceeding which they had adopted on the melancholy occasion of his Majesty's illness, had not the good fortune to receive the approbation of the illustrious persons, the male branches of the royal family, yet they continued to consider it as the only legal and constitutional course, in which they could be supported by precedent; that it was the course prescribed in the years 1788 and 1789, when it had not only been adopted, after long and painful discussions by the two Houses of Parliament, but had received the universal approbation of the country at large; and they were still further gratified by the reflection, that, on the re-establishment of his Majesty's health, the proceedings in parliament upon that occasion, had received his Majesty's gracious confirmation, and had been even honoured with expressions of his personal gratitude.

By what ingenuity the authors of this protest found out that the bill was in violation of the principles which placed the Royal Family on the throne, cannot be conceived. If parliament had the right to dispose of the crown, it certainly had a right to appoint a restricted regency.

Notwithstanding the opposition thus unaccountably set up against the measure, the Regency Bill passed into a law on the 5th of February, 1811; and, on the day following, the Prince of Wales was sworn into his high office before the privy council.

BOOK THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1810 to 1813.

It was generally expected, even by ministers themselves, that the Regent would have made an immediate change in the cabinet. In this, however, the people were greatly disappointed. The first act of the Prince, on entering upon the duties of his important station, was, to inform Mr. Perceval, that he had no intention to remove any of his Majesty's official servants. His Royal Highness added, that he was led to form this resolution, from a dread lest any act of the Regent might, in the smallest degree, have the effect of interfering with the progress of his sovereign's recovery.

At this time, strong hopes were entertained that the restoration of the afflicted monarch to the entire possession of his mental powers, was not far distant. While the Regency Bill was in progress, symptoms of convalescence made their appearance; and on the 12th of February, the Prince had an interview with his Majesty at Windsor. The meeting is described as having been

highly interesting ; and the conversation on the proceedings that had taken place, was begun by the King himself, who, in the most feeling and rational terms, expressed his approbation of the conduct of his Son and his ministers. This conference lasted nearly two hours, and ended to the satisfaction of both the royal personages.

So steadily did this improvement continue, that the medical reports were suspended, the daily attendance of the physicians was dispensed with, and the pages resumed their accustomed occupations. This progressive recovery went on with such effect, that, about the middle of May, the King made his first appearance in public since the commencement of his malady, and took his favourite ride in Windsor Park, which exercise he repeated several times.

At the beginning of June, the disorder suddenly took an unfavourable turn ; and the hopes that had for some weeks assumed an air of confidence, gave way, and were soon obliterated. The Prince Regent had issued numerous cards of invitation for an entertainment at Carlton House, on the fifth, in honour of his Majesty's birth-day ; but the change that had occurred caused the fete to be put off to the twelfth, and afterwards to the nineteenth ; "when," says the courtly journal, "it took place under the happiest aspect of the heavens, for the night was most serene."

Upon no previous occasion, and at no court in Europe, was ever the experiment made, to set down two thousand of the principal nobility and gentry of the kingdom to a regular supper. About nine o'clock, the whole fashionable world was in motion. Coaches and chariots collecting from all quarters, were seen converging to one

spot ; but, contrary to the laws of attraction, the velocity decreased with the nearness of the approach, and it was past midnight before the whole assemblage was formed within Carlton House. The royal family of France, including Louis the Eighteenth, the Duchess d'Angouleme, and all the princes of the house of Bourbon, entered through the gardens about ten, and were received by the Regent in state.

The conservatory was one of the most distinguished objects of admiration in the arrangement. The building presented, at a glance, the appearance of a lofty aisle in a cathedral. Between the pillars were candelabras, suspended at the height of twelve feet, which spread a blaze of light all around. The grand table extended two hundred feet, the whole length of the conservatory, and across Carlton House. Along the centre, about six inches above the surface, a canal of water continued flowing from a silver fountain at the head of the table. The sides or banks of this stream were covered with green moss and aquatic flowers, while gold and silver fish were seen sporting through the bubbling current, which terminated in a cascade at the outlet. At the head of the table sat the Regent, with his royal guests, and some of his principal friends. On the right hand of the Prince sat the Duchess d'Angouleme, and on his left the Duchess of York.

The aisle opposite the grand conservatory formed a superb promenade, furnished with the finest flowers, orange trees, and fruits. The company sat down to supper about one o'clock ; and all the royal Dukess assisted their brother in doing the honours of the table. The Prince's table being filled, became a blaze of splendour ; and each subordinate one throughout the palace,

and in the temporary constructions, yielded altogether a spectacle not less brilliant than the gorgeous entertainments of Haroon al Raschid.

The Regent and his illustrious visitors rose from table at half-past four, and returned to the grand ball-room, where the dancing was resumed in the face of the newly-risen sun. His Royal Highness, during the night, passed from one room to the other, conversing in the most affable manner with his guests; the number of whom may be ascertained from this, that eighteen hundred and forty-two tickets were received at the front door, and between four and five hundred at the side door: now, as several of these tickets gave admission to two or more visitors, it was computed that the entire company amounted nearly to three thousand persons.

Having given a faint sketch of this magnificent entertainment, it is painful, but necessary, to relate what followed. To gratify the public, whose curiosity had been much excited by the description of the fete, the Prince kindly permitted the arrangements to remain for general inspection on the 24th of June, and the two following days. Immense crowds attended on the first and second days of admission; but though much confusion ensued, no accident occurred till the 26th, when all was bustle at an early hour, and, by six o'clock, carriages were in motion from all parts of the town. The tickets being generally for a company of six or eight, groups of elegantly dressed people were seen advancing to the centre of attraction from every quarter, so that Pall Mall was completely choked by eleven, when the spectators began to be admitted. The method adopted was, to let in about two hundred at a time; and when they had satisfied

their curiosity, to give them egress into the Park. This was repeated every half-hour, till three, by which time the number in front, extending from Carlton House to the Haymarket on the one side, and to St. James's-street on the other, could not be less than thirty thousand. Most of these were females, whose screams and shrieks became so distressing, that the gate was opened ; which, instead of giving relief, increased the evil, for, in the rush to enter, many were thrown down, and trampled upon by those behind them. One lady had her leg broken, and others were carried away apparently dead. Even such as were fortunate enough to escape personal injury, suffered in their dress ; and few of them could leave Carlton House, until they had obtained fresh garments. At half-past four, the Duke of Clarence came forward, and addressed the populace. He told them, that he was desired by his brother, the Regent, to say, that however happy he should be to gratify the public, yet, from the accidents that had occurred, he had found it necessary to close the gates, and to order that they should not be re-opened. Placards to the same purport were fixed on the pillars in the front of the house ; notwithstanding which, a considerable crowd remained in the street till dusk, and then they began rapidly to disperse.

Though no blame was imputable to the Prince Regent for the unpleasant consequences of his good-natured condescension, yet the indulgence itself was certainly an act of imprudence, by drawing together more than could possibly be accommodated.

As the Prince Regent had declared his intention to make no alteration in any department of government, some surprise was expressed at the re-appointment of the Duke of York to the command of the forces.

Lord Morpeth, the present Earl of Carlisle, made it the subject of a motion in the House of Commons; but, instead of gaining his object, he found himself in a contemptible minority; and what must have been still more mortifying, many of those who had voted against the Duke, now confessed they had been carried away by public opinion.

In regard to the profession of the Regent, a complete justification was made out by Mr. Perceval, who said, that Sir David Dundas having given in his resignation, there was no person so well qualified for the post as the Duke of York, who had the suffrages of the whole army in his favour. To this it might have been added, that the King, had he retained his mental faculties, intended to have restored the Duke to the station which he formerly filled with so much satisfaction, till popular clamour rendered his retirement necessary as a matter of prudence. That excitement having ceased, and the public feeling having taken a different direction, no reason existed why the Regent should not comply with the wish of his Father, coinciding, as it did, with his own inclinations.

On the termination of the parliamentary session in July, this year, the Duke of Clarence visited the southern and western coast, where much bustle prevailed, in consequence of the information that Buonaparte was at Boulogne, superintending the preparations for his long-threatened invasion. During his stay at that place, Napoleon witnessed a scene, which must have given him some idea of what might be expected, if an attempt was really meditated by him, to cross the channel with an armament.

On the 20th of September, the Naiad frigate, Captain

Carteret, three sloops of war, and a cutter, were attacked by a flotilla of twenty-seven sail, consisting of seven large praams, each as long as a frigate, eleven gun-brigs, and others of smaller size. The action commenced at noon; our ships were surrounded, but they soon compelled the French admiral to strike, and soon after he ran away. At this time, Buonaparte, who was viewing the action, with Marshal Ney, in a barge, ordered a French commodore out, to assist the admiral. This command was obeyed, and the commodore ran alongside the Naiad, with the intention of boarding. Captain Carteret, fearing that the commodore would serve him as the admiral had done, ordered the two ships to be lashed together, and, after a short contest, the Frenchman struck. During this engagement, the admiral and the rest of his fleet made all sail for the harbour; which so enraged Napoleon, that he directed the guns of the batteries to open upon them, to drive them to sea again—but without effect, for, as the French commodore said, “their emperor sent them to fight *meu*, and they found devils.”

The captured praam was brought into Portsmouth, where she was inspected by the Duke of Clarence. In this visit, a whimsical circumstance occurred, of which the following account was lately inserted in the Glasgow Courier, to which it had been communicated by a naval officer. When the Royal Duke went on board the Naiad, the ship's company were mustered in their respective divisions. On these occasions, the men are arranged in classes, according to their rating, as regular seamen, or otherwise; the top-men and forecastle-men taking precedence of all others, as including the best sailors; the landsmen, under the denominations of after-guard and waisters, being the lowest in degree.

Mr. Green, the first lieutenant, thinking he might presume on the Duke's want of familiarity with naval details, ventured to place five of the best-looking landsmen among the regular blue-jackets—but it would not do. The Duke had not forgotten that indescribable something which impresses a distinctive character on a genuine seaman ; and, to the confusion of poor Green, he singled out each of the intruders, and boldly affirmed—which was the truth—that they had never been in a top or on a yard in their lives. He immediately saw the drift of the deception which had been attempted to be practised upon him, and good-naturedly appreciated the feeling that had induced the lieutenant to make the best appearance he could before the Royal Admiral. As he picked successively each unlucky wight out of the rank in which he had been placed, he laughed heartily, and said, “ Ah, Mr. Green, here is another of your top-men. Take him away : I know a sailor by head-mark, as well as any of you.” If Mr. Green was mortified at the ill success of his manœuvre, the ship's company were delighted with the unexpected display of nautical tact in the Duke. The captain of the fore-top, a tall weather-beaten Cornishman, said to one of his messmates, a regular-going north-country lad, “ How his Honour twigged Long Bill, and the rest of 'em ; and all because Master Green would have them sailors—the lubbers, that didn't know a weather-earing from a bobstay.” “ Ay, ay, leave him alone for that, my hearty,” rejoined his comrade, “ I saw, by the cut of his jib, that he knew a marline spike from a hand-saw, for all Master Green's cleverness. I don't like tricks upon travellers.” Among his associates, poor Green fared no better. His “ topmen” continued to be a standing joke as long as he remained in the ship, yet

the Duke did not forget the honest lieutenant, for he procured his promotion to the rank of commander, in the course of a few months.

Another instance of royal condescension, and professional attachment, which occurred about this time, is thus related in a country newspaper.

“Most of our readers in Gainsborough and the neighbourhood,” says the editor, “will remember an old man of the name of Matthew Hardcastle, who died only a few years since. The old man had, after the death of his wife, fallen into great poverty, and, having sold what he could, was compelled to apply to the parish for relief. In this distress, he thought, by an application to the Duke of Clarence, with whom he had formerly sailed in the Prince George, he should be able to get into Greenwich Hospital. Accordingly, he borrowed money from a kind neighbour, obtained a passage to London, and, after repeated attempts, was fortunate enough to find his Royal Highness at home. On sending in his name, he was admitted; and, as the old man used to say, his Royal Highness met him in the passage, shook him kindly by the hand, took him into a room, and, setting a chair for him and another for himself, entered heartily into a recapitulation of the stories of his youth, when a midshipman on board the Prince George, in which Matthew had been master of the magazine, and, in consequence of his situation, somewhat in favour with the Prince. Upon Matthew’s telling his state and his hopes, the Duke was kind enough to say, he would apply for him, but he feared it was too late. However, he was to call again in two days, when he should know the result. Accordingly, Matthew waited upon his royal friend at the time appointed, and was told that nothing could be

done in regard to the hospital: "But, however," said he, "what will make you comfortable, Matthew? I will allow you ten pounds a year as long as you live; and if that won't do, I will help you further. Write to me when you get home, and let me know that you have got safe down." On taking leave, his Royal Highness put into his hand money sufficient to defray his expenses to Gainsborough. Matthew for many years continued to enjoy the royal bounty; and he was never backward in acknowledging the benevolence of the Duke of Clarence.

Towards the close of this year, a change took place in the domestic establishment of the royal Duke, by the dissolution of his connexion with Mrs. Jordan.

As the subject is delicate, and involved in some obscurity, we shall take for our guide the biographer of Mrs. Jordan; though it is evident, that even he laboured under no little perplexity in this part of his narrative. "At length," says our authority, "while she was acting at Cheltenham, a storm burst upon her totally unexpected. She received a letter from his Royal Highness, desiring her to meet him at Maidenhead, where they were to bid each other farewell. Mrs. Jordan had concluded her engagement, but remained one night over, to perform Nell, in the "Devil to Pay," for the manager's benefit. It was in the afternoon of this very day, she received the fatal letter. With that steady kindness that always distinguished her, she arrived at the theatre, dreadfully weakened by a succession of fainting-fits. She, however, struggled on with Nell, until Jobson arrived at the passage, where he has to accuse the conjuror of making her *laughing drunk*. But when the actress attempted to laugh, and the afflicted woman burst into tears, her Jobson, with great presence of mind, altered

the text, and exclaimed,—“Why, Nell, the conjuror has not only made thee drunk, but he has made thee *crying drunk*!” thus covering her personal distress, and carrying her through the distressing scene in character. After the performance, she was put into a travelling chariot, in her stage dress, to keep her appointment with the Duke, in a state of anguish easily to be conceived. What passed at the meeting, I would not wish to detail.—After allowing herself due time to recover her spirits, and endeavour to do herself justice, by making her statement to the Regent—submitting herself entirely to his judgment, and finally to the generous nature of the Duke himself, she thus writes to a confidential friend:—

“My mind is beginning to feel somewhat reconciled to the shock and surprise it has lately received; for could you or the world believe, that we never had, for twenty years, the semblance of a quarrel. But this is so well known in our domestic circle, that the astonishment is the greater. *Money, money*, my good friend, or the want of it, has, I am convinced, made him the most wretched of men? but having done wrong, he does not like to retract. But with all his excellent qualities, his domestic virtues, his love for his lovely children, what must he not at this moment suffer? His distresses should have been relieved before; but this is *entre nous*.

“All his letters are full of the most unqualified praise of my conduct; and it is the most heartfelt blessing to know that, to the best of my power, I have endeavoured to deserve it. I have received the greatest kindness and attention from the Regent, and every branch of the Royal Family; who, in the most unreserved terms,

deplore this melancholy business. The whole correspondence is before the Regent, and I am proud to add, that my past and present conduct has secured me a friend, who declares he never will forsake me. 'My forbearance,' he says, 'is beyond what he could have imagined!' But what will not a woman do, who is firmly and sincerely attached? Had he left me to starve, I never would have uttered a word to his disadvantage. And now, my dear friend, do not hear the Duke of C. abused. He has done wrong, and is suffering for it. But as far as he has left it in his own power, he is doing every thing kind and noble, even to the distressing of himself."

In a subsequent letter, she says:—"The constant kindness and attention I meet with from the Duke, in every respect but personal interviews, (and which depends as much on my feelings as his,) has, in a great measure, restored me to my former health and spirits. Among many noble traits of goodness, he has lately added one more, that of exonerating me from my promise of not returning to my profession. This he has done, under the idea of its benefiting my health, and adding to my pleasures and comforts."

On the 7th of December, she wrote a short note to the same friend, in which she says, "The Duke of Clarence has concluded, and settled on me and his children, the most liberal and generous provision; and I trust every thing will sink into oblivion."

But however satisfied this inconsiderate woman might be with the settlement made in her individual favour, she soon found herself in a forlorn condition. Demands, of which she had no conception, or which she vainly supposed had long since been liquidated, so pressed upon

her in consequence of this change in her situation, that, to escape the pitiless storm, and the horrors of a prison, she fled to France ; where she died, the 3d of July, 1816, at the age of fifty, according to the inscription on the stone which covers her remains in the cemetery of St. Cloud ; but another, and seemingly a better authority, says, that she must have been fifty-four at least.

The issue of this connexion, as stated in the public prints, consisted of ten children :—1. Colonel Frederick Fitzclarence, married in 1821, to Lady Augusta Boyle, daughter of the Earl of Glasgow ; 2. George Fitzclarence, now Earl of Munster, married to a daughter of the Earl of Egremont ; 3. Captain Adolphus Fitzclarence, of the Royal Navy ; 4. the Rev. Augustus Fitzclarence, Rector of Maple Durham in Oxfordshire ; 5. Captain Henry Fitzclarence, who died in India, in 1818 ; 6. Elizabeth, who married the Earl of Errol ; 7. Augusta, who married the Hon. John Erskine Kennedy, second son of the Earl of Cassilis, and is now a widow ; 8. Sophia, married to Sir Philip Sidney ; 9. Mary, married to the Hon. Col. Fox, son of Lord Holland ; and lastly, Amelia, married at Brighton in December, 1830, to Lord Falkland. The Royal Duke had, as already observed, another son, who was lost at sea ; but whether he was also by Mrs. Jordan, is not ascertained.

The death of Mrs. Jordan at Paris excited less notice than might have been expected, from the peculiar circumstances of her private history and professional character. After seven years, however, had passed away, public attention was drawn to the case of this unfortunate woman, by the announcement of a dividend of five shillings in the pound to her creditors. Upon this, the daily press opened its batteries with extraordinary

vehemence against the illustrious personage under whose protection Mrs. Jordan had so long lived. Some explanation, therefore, became indispensably necessary, to remove the impression made by these attacks; and, accordingly, Mr. Barton of the Mint, and the confidential friend of the Royal Duke for thirty-six years, published an elaborate refutation of the evil reports that were in circulation.

In this statement, Mr. Barton says :—" All who know the Duke or his connexions intimately, are acquainted with the truth ; but none being so fully possessed of the whole case as myself, I feel that any further forbearance would amount to a dereliction of duty on my part ; and, therefore, in justice to a much-injured character, I take upon myself to submit the following statement to the public ; acquainting them, in the first place, that it was through my hands the whole transaction upon the separation of the Duke and Mrs. Jordan passed ; that it was at my suggestion Mrs. Jordan adopted the resolution of leaving this country for France, to enable her the more readily and honourably to extricate herself from the troubles into which she had fallen through a misplaced confidence ; and that I possess a correspondence with Mrs. Jordan, subsequent to her leaving England, which corroborates my statement in the minutest points. Upon the separation which took place between Mrs. Jordan and the Duke in the year 1811, it was agreed that she should have the care, until a certain age, of her four youngest daughters ; and a settlement was made by the Duke for the payment, by him, of the following amounts :—1. For the maintenance of the daughters, £1,500. 2. A house and carriage for their use, £600. 3. For Mrs. Jordan, £1,500. 4. And to enable her to

provide for the children of a former connexion, £800.; making, in all, £4,400 a year. It was stipulated, that in the event of Mrs. Jordan's resuming her profession, the care of the daughters by the Duke of Clarence, together with the sum for their maintenance, should revert to his Royal Highness; which event did take place in the course of a few months, in consequence of Mrs. Jordan's desire to accept certain proposals made to her to perform again on the stage."

It is then stated, "that the Duke allowed gratuitously to each of Mrs. Jordan's two married daughters, by a previous connexion, two hundred pounds a year. "Who then," it is asked, "after this statement of facts, shall accuse the Duke of Clarence with want of generosity towards Mrs. Jordan, or her memory?"

Mr. Barton thus winds up his narrative: "I must conclude with one assurance, that, after having given a true, and, I trust, candid recital of facts, I shall treat with contempt any thing further that may be said on this subject; resting satisfied, if, after an attachment of six-and-thirty years' service to a good and generous master, I shall have added any thing to his comfort, in convincing a single individual of the injustice he has sustained."

This is well; but it must be allowed that the case of the unfortunate woman was a distressing one. The chambers she occupied at Paris were shabby—and no English comforts solaced her in her latter moments. In her little drawing-room, a small old sofa was the best looking piece of furniture. On this she constantly reclined, and on this she died.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1812 to 1814.

ON the 21st of December, 1811, died Sir Peter Parker, admiral of the fleet; and three days afterwards, his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was gazetted as the successor of that veteran commander. The period being now approaching for the removal of the restrictions on the Regent, the Prince, in a letter to the Duke of York, proposed the formation of an extended administration, on a liberal basis, by the admission of Earl Grey and Lord Grenville into the cabinet. The two noble personages, however, declined the overture; and no other change took place than that of the appointment of Lord Castlereagh to the office of foreign secretary, on the resignation of the Marquis Wellesley. Thus matters stood till the 11th of May, 1812, when another opening occurred, by the assassination of Mr. Perceval. The Marquis Wellesley was now empowered to form an arrangement; but when it was understood that he was to be the prime minister, the same two lords declined taking any part in the cabinet. Earl Moira was then authorized to treat with them, on unconditional terms; but when they demanded the dismissal of the household officers of the Regent, the noble negociator indignantly spurned at the unreasonable requisition; and, as neither party would recede, the treaty ended, and the Earl of Liverpool became first lord of the treasury.

We must now take a rapid glance at the seat of war. On the 22d of July was fought the great battle of Salamanca, in which, as well as in most of the principal actions of the Peninsular war, three sons of the Duke of Clarence fought with distinguished valour, under the immediate observation of Lord Wellington. But a storm, still more portentous to Europe, was gathering in the north. At the beginning of April, Napoleon made an affected overture of peace with England; but the conditions of recognizing Joseph as king of Spain, and Murat as king of Naples, were too preposterous to be listened to. Thus the correspondence ended; and, on the 22d of June, Buonaparte, having assembled an army of nearly half a million of men, French and auxiliaries, on the frontier of Russia, issued a declaration of war against the Emperor Alexander.

Previous to passing the Niemen, the boaster thus addressed his legions, which extended one hundred and fifty miles along the banks of that river: "Russia is dragged along by a fatality! Her destinies must be accomplished!" This was an oracle—but in an opposite sense to that which was in the mind of him by whom it was uttered. How different was this from the language of Alexander, in his proclamation! "Providence," said the emperor, "will crown with success our just cause. The defence of our native country, the maintenance of our independence and national honour, have compelled us to have recourse to arms. I will not sheathe my sword so long as there is an enemy within my borders." The lapse of a few months sufficed to determine between the two predictions;—that of the despot who trusted in numbers and destiny—and that of him who relied upon the justice of his cause and a retributive providence. Napoleon,

after seeing the ancient capital of Muscovy in flames, retraced his steps without subjugating the empire of Russia, and on the 18th of December, 1812, he returned home, to defend his own.

It was a remarkable coincidence, that at the very moment when Napoleon commenced his invasion of Russia, Madison, the president of the United States of America, declared war against Great Britain, and that too in the middle of a negociation for the adjustment of all differences between the two powers. But the Americans gained as little by their precipitate outrage, as their Imperial friend did by his northern expedition. The republicans gained some advantages in the capture of a few inferior ships of war; but all their attempts to annex Canada to the United States failed with disgrace. Even the naval achievements of the Americans were owing to the magnitude of their ships; what they rated as sloops of war being equal to frigates, and their frigates to ships of the line. Thus, it was not to be wondered, that in some actions victory should be on the side of the strongest: but the casualties which the naval service suffered were less painful than the mortification inflicted upon the spirit of the British tars, by being obliged to strike, under such circumstances, to an enemy, whom, but for this disproportion of strength, they would have contemned.

In proof of this, no other evidence need be adduced, than the action between the British frigate Shannon, of forty-four guns, and the United States frigate, of forty-nine guns, off Boston harbour, on the first of June, 1813. The American came out with a volunteer crew, and in fine order, having three flags flying, as if assured of victory. Captain Broke, of the Shannon, though he had

a short complement of hands, was ready for the combat; which began at half-past five, and in fifteen minutes the old British union floated over the republican ensign.

How little the Americans regarded the principles of honourable warfare at this period, appeared in their horrible attempt to blow up the *Ramillies*, Captain Sir Thomas Hardy. On Friday, the 25th of June, the *Ramillies* being off New London, the master's mate was sent in a boat to board a schooner; which he effected, the people having deserted her, after letting go her only anchor and cable. The officer brought the schooner near the *Ramillies*, and informed Sir Thomas Hardy that she was laden with provisions and naval stores. Sir Thomas ordered her to be taken alongside a sloop, which had been captured a few days before. Mr. Geddes volunteered his services; and to put the orders into execution, took with him a fresh boat's crew. Whilst they were in the act of securing the schooner, about half-past two o'clock, she blew up, with a most tremendous explosion, and poor Geddes, with ten valuable seamen, lost their lives; three men escaped, but not without being terribly scorched. It was discovered that this vessel had been fitted out by two merchants of New York, in consequence of the American government having offered half the value of the British men-of-war so destroyed, for the express purpose of blowing up the *Ramillies*; and hearing that the ship was short of provisions and stores, they placed some on the hatchway, as an inducement for taking her alongside. Underneath the provisions were deposited several casks of gunpowder, with trains laid to a machine, which was constructed upon the principles of clock-work. When it ran out the time given to it on winding up,

it gave force to a sort of gun-lock, and the explosion followed, to the destruction of any ship that might be near the infernal engine.

Such is the account, as given by Sir Thomas Hardy himself—and it confirmed what the late Earl of Stanhope had stated in the House of Lords, respecting this infernal invention; the author of which was Fulton, an engineer, who is more honourably known by having first applied the agency of steam to navigation.

The campaign in Spain was opened by Lord Wellington's breaking up from Ciudad Rodrigo, and advancing towards Madrid; which city, Joseph Buonaparte with Marshal Jourdan abandoned, and proceeded to Vittoria, the grand depôt of the French army. Here the last stand was made by the intruder, who suffered a total defeat on the 21st of June. One hundred and fifty pieces of cannon were taken, and four hundred and fifteen ammunition and baggage waggons, among which were Joseph's equipage, and all the treasure he had been able to collect from the churches, palaces, and private houses in Madrid.

On the termination of the battle, a curious spectacle was exhibited. "It is impossible to conceive," says an eye-witness, "the comic incidents that occurred almost in the same instant with the most frightful scenes of horror. The work of death and destruction was scarcely brought to a conclusion, when, our brave fellows having gained possession of the enemy's baggage, all was riot—the army chest was forced open, and the men began to load themselves with bullion. To stop them was impossible. Some of the officers reported to the general, that the men were plundering and carrying off the money. 'Let them,' said Lord Wellington; 'they have fought

well, and deserve all they can find, were it ten times more.”

Among the articles of most value, that fell into their hands, was the richly ornamented baton or staff of Marshal Jourdan; which, being carried to the British general, was sent home with the despatches to the Prince Regent, who, in return, wrote the following letter to Lord Wellington, with his own hand :

“ Carlton House, July 3, 1813.

“ MY DEAR LORD,

“ Your glorious conduct is beyond all human praise, and far above my reward : I know no language the world affords, worthy to express it. I feel I have nothing left to say, but devoutly to offer up my prayers of gratitude to Providence, that it has, in its omnipotent bounty, blessed my country and myself with such a general. You have sent me, among the trophies of your unrivalled fame, the staff of a French marshal; and I send you, in return, that of England. The British army will hail it with enthusiasm; while the whole universe will acknowledge those valorous efforts, which have so imperiously called for it. That uninterrupted health, and still increasing laurels, may continue to crown you through a glorious and long career of life, are the never-ceasing and most ardent wishes of,

“ My dear Lord,

“ Your most sincere,

“ and faithful Friend,

“ The Marquis of Wellington.”

“ G. P. R.”

In the battle of Vittoria, and the subsequent one of the Pyrenees, as also in all the operations of the British army in Spain and France, the three sons of the Duke of Clarence eminently distinguished themselves, under the immediate observation of their illustrious commander, and on all occasions with his approbation. Two of these,

the present Earl of Munster, and his younger brother Henry, were in the same regiment; Colonel Frederick Fizclarence was in a different division. At all times, and on the most perilous points of danger, especially at the actions of Orthes and Toulouse, which terminated the war in the south, these young heroes were ever in the front of the fire, and among the first to engage in desperate service. In the first of the two battles just mentioned, a circumstance occurred, which was never inserted in the general's despatches, and of course was passed over unnoticed in the gazette. At the very moment of victory, the Duke of Wellington was struck by a grape-shot in the hip. He, however, concealed the injury at the time; but it was so severe, that he could not dismount without assistance. The hilt of the sword, which was bent by the ball, was providentially interposed between his person and the bullet; otherwise, in all probability, the consequence would have been fatal.

The destinies of Napoleon were now fast winding up; and the battle of Leipsic may be said to have completed the warp. One of the immediate results of that tremendous event, was the emancipation of Holland from the yoke of France. After an exile of nineteen years, the Prince of Orange made his entrance into Amsterdam. Reinforcements were now sent with all haste from England, to co-operate with the Dutch patriots; and, at the same time, the Prussians, under General Bulow, marched into the eastern provinces. The British troops were commanded by Sir Thomas Graham, now Lord Lynedoch, who was supported by the Duke of Clarence, both at the bombardment of Antwerp and the siege of Bergen-op-zoom. His Royal Highness, on one of these occasions, received a contusion from the explosion of a shell; but

the injury was slight, and did not impede his exertions. The Duke at this time acted in a double capacity, being occasionally on board the *Jason* frigate, which carried his flag, and at other times aiding in the military operations, chiefly with Sir George Hoste, of the royal engineers. His Royal Highness, however, had not the satisfaction of witnessing the fall of either of those strong holds, which did not yield, till the fate of Napoleon was sealed by the entrance of the allies into Paris, and his expatriation to Elba.

On leaving the Scheldt, the Duke of Clarence took on board the *Jason*, the Grand Duchess of Oldenburgh, sister to the Emperor Alexander ; and on Tuesday, the 29th of March, her Imperial Highness landed at Sheerness. The next morning, the illustrious stranger proceeded to town in one of the Regent's carriages, accompanied by the Royal Admiral, and, on her arrival, took up her residence at the Pulteney Hotel, which had been previously prepared for her reception.

On the 20th of April, the inhabitants of the metropolis assembled to witness the extraordinary spectacle of the public entry of a king of France. Louis the Eighteenth being recalled to the throne of his ancestors, was invited by the Prince Regent to display his regal dignity first in the capital of England ; and the sentiment of his Royal Highness was felt and responded to by the public at large. At four in the morning, the Prince's state carriage, with seven other equipages and outriders, set out for Stanmore, where his majesty was to breakfast. His Royal Highness himself arrived at the Abercorn Arms at two o'clock, and soon after, the king was drawn into the village by the populace, who, on the first appearance of the carriage, took out the horses. The Prince Regent was

at the door to receive his majesty, and they embraced according to the French fashion, after which the conversation was carried on in that language. At a little after three, the procession set out ; the king and the Regent being together in the same carriage.

On their arrival at Grillon's Hotel in Albemarle-street, where apartments had been prepared for his majesty, he was received by about one hundred of the French, and a number of the English nobility. After the monarch had taken his seat, the Regent addressed him to the following effect :—

“ Your Majesty will permit me to offer you my heartiest congratulations upon the great event, which has always been among the warmest of my wishes ; and which must eminently contribute to the happiness, not only of your majesty's people, but to the repose and happiness of all other nations. I am sure I may add, that my own sentiments and feelings are in unison with those of the universal British nation ; and that the triumph and transport with which your majesty will be received in your own capital, can scarcely exceed the joy and satisfaction which your majesty's restoration to the throne of your ancestors has created in the capital of the British empire.”

To this speech the king replied :—“ Your Royal Highness will accept my most sincere and grateful thanks for your congratulations, and for the invariable kindness with which I have been treated by your Royal Highness, and by every member of your illustrious house. It is to your Royal Highness's councils—to this great country—and to the constancy of its people, that I shall always ascribe, under Providence, the restoration of our house to the throne of our ancestors, and that state of affairs

which promises to heal the wounds, to calm the passions, and to restore the peace, tranquillity, and prosperity of all nations.”

The King then, assisted by the Prince de Conde, and the Duke of Bourbon, taking the riband of the order of Saint Esprit from his own shoulder, and the star from his breast, invested the Prince with the same, professing his happiness that it should be upon his Royal Highness he had the honour of first conferring the ancient order on his restoration. The Prince Regent and the English nobility then withdrew. The following day the King and his family dined at Carlton House, where a Chapter of the Garter was held, when his majesty was invested with the insignia of that order. At the same time the King conferred the order of Saint Esprit on the Duke of York.

On the 23d, at the hour of eight, his majesty with his relatives left London for Dover, where the Prince had arrived two hours before, to receive the King; a mark of delicate respect, which made a strong impression upon every mind capable of feeling. At one o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, the Royal Sovereign yacht sailed from Dover under a salute from all the batteries; the Prince Regent, who had taken his station on the pier head, cheering as she passed, in which he was joined by all the spectators. On reaching the roads, the King was received by a royal salute from the ships of war, among which was the *Jason*, the flag-ship of the Duke of Clarence, which accompanied the yacht to the French coast, and then returned to England.

The Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia having expressed an intention of visiting this country, the Duke of Clarence shifted his flag, as admiral of the fleet, from the *Jason* to the *Impregnable*, for the purpose of receiving,

and conveying them to the British shore. Accordingly, on the 6th of June, their majesties embarked at Boulogne, under a discharge of artillery from the shore, and were received on board the Impregnable with a royal salute, which naval ceremonial was repeated when they landed the same evening at Dover. The Duke of Clarence had previously provided a splendid entertainment, of which the illustrious personages partook with much cheerfulness. The next morning early, the royal party set out for London, and when the Emperor Alexander arrived at the Pulteney Hotel, he alighted, entered the house, and passed through the lower apartments without being recognized. He ascended the first flight of stairs, when the Prince Gagarin announced "The Emperor!" At the same instant the Grand Duchess met her brother on the stairs, and they embraced in the most affectionate manner. The tidings of the Emperor's arrival resounded not only throughout the house, but in the street, where an immense concourse of people assembled, and testified their joy by loud acclamations.

At half past four, the Emperor went to Carlton House, but so privately, that the escort of horse appointed to attend his majesty, missed him; but they waited upon him, in his return to the hotel. The Prince Regent had prepared a residence for his imperial majesty in the palace of St. James's, but Alexander chose rather to be with his sister and her young family, to whom he was much attached. However, he made use of the Duke of Cumberland's apartments, for state purposes. The King of Prussia and his sons, with Field-marshal Blucher, took up their residence, as long as they staid, at the house of the Duke of Clarence.

From this time to the twenty-second, there was a con-

tinued round of festivities, reviews, and spectacles, in honour of the imperial and royal visitors, the bare enumeration of which would exceed the restricted limits of this memoir. In the splendid scenes at London and Oxford, the Duke of Clarence bore no part, being occupied at Portsmouth in making preparations for an exhibition more suited to his taste, and more worthy of the national character. On the morning of the 22d, the Emperor and his suite left the hotel for Coombe Wood, the seat of Lord Liverpool, where his majesty was soon after joined by the King of Prussia and his sons. The Prince Regent, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, proceeded direct to Portsmouth, to receive his illustrious friends and guests. They did not, however, arrive there till the evening, and too late to be present at the dinner which had been provided for them at the government house. Early the next morning, the royal standards floated over the public buildings, and the Regent, with the Duke of York, drove to the residence of the Emperor, where they were soon joined by the King of Prussia, the Princes, and the Duke of Saxe Weimar.

The company walked from thence to the place of embarkation, where the whole naval procession, headed by the Duke of Clarence, was ready for their reception. It commenced by the barges commanded by captains clearing the way. The Admiralty barge came first, and was followed by the Royal barge, with the standard of Great Britain; then two other barges, one bearing the Russian flag of yellow with the black spread eagle, and the other of white, with the sable eagle of Prussia. These elegant barges contained the Emperor and his sister, the King and his relatives, many German princes, and the respective suites of the three royal personages. The procession

passed along the line of men-of-war, amid a general salute from each ship, the yards of which were all manned, and the crews by their cheers seemed to emulate the roaring of the cannon. The Duke of Clarence had previously gone on board the Impregnable, to welcome his august visitors. A short interval elapsed after their going on board, when the Emperor came to the entering port, where he stood some minutes bowing very graciously to the surrounding spectators. The Prussian monarch did the same; also the Duchess of Oldenberg; the Prince Regent; and his brothers. Another grand salute was then fired, mixed with the cheering of the ships' companies.

Soon after the royal party came on board, they proceeded to explore the ship. The Regent was very curious and attentive. The King of Prussia examined much, and appeared to be a very careful observer. Alexander lost not a moment; he left the main deck, and went about the ship alone for some time. He then took his sister, and descended to the place where the crew were receiving their allowance at twelve o'clock. He made inquiry concerning it, and asked what quantity of water was added to the rum? Being told that the proportion was as six to one, a tar observed, that it would be no worse for being stronger. Alexander requested the usual allowance, and drank it off readily; then, with a smile, expressed his approbation of the liquor, "which," said he in English, "you call grog, and I think it very good." He had a smaller quantity poured out for the Duchess, who drank it with much good humour.

The men on this occasion were indulged with an extra allowance. Alexander then went into the marines' birth, where about eleven were at dinner. He seated

himself by them, and took a portion of their mess : after which he pulled out a sum of money, and left it with the company, bidding them "good-bye." The sons of the King of Prussia also drank grog with the men, and enjoyed it with satisfaction. A grand collation was now prepared in the cabin, where a superb display of the Regent's plate decorated the tables. Admiral Blackwood, captain of the fleet, and Mr. Adam, captain of the ship, did the honours of the table. On their return to the deck, nothing could exceed the satisfaction of the guests. At leaving the Impregnable, salutes were again fired ; after which the royal party repaired to the government house, where another grand banquet was given by the Prince Regent to near one hundred and fifty persons.

On the 24th, the royal party proceeded to view the various establishments of the yard and arsenal. The ships building or repairing, the stores of every description, the rope house, the copper works, and all the other important branches, were examined with much attention. But the Emperor and King appeared most struck by the machinery for making ships' blocks, the rapid operation of which excited their admiration. At about two o'clock, the royal barges left the King's stairs at the dock yard, to pay another visit to the fleet. On their arrival they went on board the Royal Sovereign yacht, which immediately hoisted the national standard. The Emperor had previously gone with the Duke of Clarence on board the Impregnable, the interior of which vessel seemed to afford his imperial majesty peculiar delight ; and he was no less assiduous than before, in making himself acquainted with nautical arrangements. The fleet now formed a line of seven or eight miles in extent, in front of the Isle of Wight. A general salute was fired ; after which, the

cables were slipped, and they immediately got under sail with a brisk gale at north east. The Royal Sovereign led the van, the yachts, barges, and above two hundred vessels of all descriptions, sailed out, keeping at various distances from the fleet. At about five o'clock, the line-of-battle ships hove-to by signal, when the Prince Regent and the King of Prussia left the Royal Sovereign, and went to the Emperor in the Impregnable, to which the royal standard was consequently shifted. At this time, the leading ships were about twelve miles from Portsmouth; and after taking some refreshment, the whole returned to their anchorage.

The wind was not so favourable for sailing back; but the general effect was improved by so many vessels of war and pleasure-boats turning to windward through a narrow channel, the large ships ranging up alongside the smaller ones; and the frequent repetition of signals in both directions along the line, with the accuracy of the naval movements, presented one of the grandest sights imaginable. At night, the Prince, of ninety-eight guns, was splendidly illuminated; and so were all the public buildings and private houses.

At eleven next morning, the Prince Regent and the allied sovereigns left Portsmouth for Portsdown Hill, where about seven thousand troops were drawn up in review order. After their majesties had inspected them, they drove to Goodwood, to breakfast with the Duke of Richmond. From thence they proceeded to Petworth, where they dined with the Earl of Egremont. On the 26th, being Sunday, the royal party arrived at Dover; and the following morning, the two sovereigns took leave of each other, and of the happy shore of England, as Alexander emphatically expressed himself; adding also,

that it was the greatest country in the world. The King of Prussia embarked on board the *Nymphen* frigate in the forenoon, and landed at Calais the same evening. The Emperor and his sister went on board a yacht at half past six; and their departure was very affecting, insomuch that, had the illustrious visitors been of our own royal lineage, they could not have made a stronger impression upon the people, than they uniformly did all the time they were here, by their pleasing manners and liberality.

Just as the yacht entered the road of Calais, the frigate that had conveyed thither the King of Prussia, came out with the Duke of Wellington, who landed the next morning at Dover, and was borne to the Ship tavern on the shoulders of the people, amidst the shouts of at least five thousand persons.

The 7th of July was observed as a day of general thanksgiving, for the restoration of peace to this country and to Europe. The Prince Regent and the two houses of parliament went in grand procession to the metropolitan cathedral, where the spectacle had a solemn but exhilarating effect. The Duke of Wellington walked on the right hand of his Royal Highness, from the carriage to his seat in the church, preceded by the Dukes of Cambridge, Sussex, Gloucester, Kent, Clarence, and York.

This, though not an unusual scene of royal grandeur, was a much more appropriate and becoming mode of celebrating a national benefit, than what took place on the first of August in the three parks, where the public were entertained with a fair, mimic temples in the Chinese fashion, fireworks, an air balloon, and, above all the rest, a naval engagement on the Serpentine river.

But all pleasure has its alloy. While the Regent was endeavouring to do honour to his foreign guests, and to

gratify the people with amusement, his domestic peace was disturbed by the parliamentary discussion of his differences with the Princess of Wales. Scarcely was this unpleasant business brought to an end, as far as pecuniary arrangement could effect it, when the elopement of the Princess Charlotte from the paternal protection to the house of her mother, furnished fresh matter for scandalous reflection and royal disquietude.

Nor was the Duke of Clarence without his personal troubles.

On the return of the tenth regiment of hussars from the Continent, several of the officers, among whom were Captain George Fitzclarence, and his brother Lieutenant Henry Fitzclarence, preferred charges against Colonel Quentin, their commander, for neglect of duty; for not making such effectual attempts as he ought to have done at the battles of Orthes and Tholouse; and for allowing a relaxed state of discipline. A court-martial was in consequence held at the barracks of Runford, upon Colonel Quentin, which ended, on the first of November, in the acquittal of the accused, and in a severe censure of his prosecutors, as having all co-operated in a compact against their commanding officer, fraught with evils of the most injurious tendency to the discipline of the service. The Prince Regent, on confirming this sentence, said, "It is essential that conduct so injurious in its nature should be held forth to the army, as a warning in support of subordination; and his Royal Highness has therefore commanded, that the officers who signed the letter of the 9th of August shall no longer act together as a corps, but that they shall be distributed by exchange through the different regiments of cavalry in the service, where they may learn, and confine themselves to, their

subordinate duties, until their services and experience shall sanction their being placed in ranks and situations where they may be allowed to judge of the general and higher duties of the profession.”

The sons of the Duke of Clarence were visited for their indiscretion with much heavier portion of the royal displeasure, than even their leaders in this unfortunate business. Notwithstanding their services, connexion, and youth, the junior brother being no more than eighteen, they were almost immediately banished to India. It has even been said, that Colonel M'Mahon wrote to the captain of the frigate in which the two delinquents embarked, directing him to treat both with marked disrespect, but that the brave officer spurned the injunction with the honest indignation and true spirit of a British seaman.

That the young gentlemen acted imprudently, under their peculiar circumstances, can hardly be doubted; but at the same time it must be admitted, that the treatment which they received savoured strongly of personal resentment and persecution. Much obloquy fell in consequence upon the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, on this occasion; and a caricature was published, in which Colonel Quentin was represented as pursued by a squadron of hussars, from whose vengeance he was drawn through a river by his royal patrons. It is but justice, however, to state, that the Colonel redeemed his character as a brave man, at the battle of Waterloo, where he was severely wounded.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1814 TO 1817.

It was thought that the restoration of peace in Europe, and the cessation of hostilities with America, had closed the temple of Janus for a long period of years, to make up for the immense waste of human life, that had, during the space of nearly a quarter of a century, been sacrificed to Moloch. There were not wanting, however, men of deeper observation, who saw in this confidence a false security, and considered the moderation of the Allies as dangerous to the tranquillity of the world. Even at the time, when the Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia were gratifying the people of England with their presence, one of the public journals had this ominous remark, "It would not in the least astonish us, to hear of Buonaparte having quitted the Isle of Elba." A gentleman, then on his travels, who passed the Undaunted frigate, then proceeding with the deprived emperor to his allotted residence, said in a private letter, "You may rely upon it, he is too near Italy. I hope a sharp eye will be kept upon him. Such is his knowledge of human nature, that he has left the officers of the ship impressed with a much more favourable opinion of him than he deserves."

Instead, however, of keeping a due watch upon the movements of this extraordinary character, it seemed as if they who had the charge of looking after him were

mere honorary appendants and representatives of regality. Facilities were in abundance, to effect an escape ; and, on the first of March, 1815, Napoleon relanded at or near the very place where, about fifteen years before, he disembarked in his return from Egypt. On both occasions, he was fortunate enough to elude British vigilance: but the destiny which favoured him in the former instance, was now preparing for himself a terrible downfall, and for the world an awful example. The battle of Waterloo closed the history of Napoleon, but it was in letters of blood ; and the rubric stands as a warning to all nations to avoid revolutions, and wars of ambition. Here also statesmen were taught, at a dreadful expense, a lesson of practical wisdom, which could not be expressed in better language than in the toast given by the veteran Blucher at a grand dinner at Paris, where he and the Duke of Wellington were the distinguished guests :—“ May the ministers of the allied powers,” said the hoary warrior, “ not lose by their pens, what the army has gained by the sword.”

But we must now turn to domestic history. In the early part of this year, the Duke of Cumberland, while residing on the continent, married his cousin, the Dowager Princess of Salms, daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, and niece to the Queen of England. The royal lady had accepted the addresses of the Duke of Cambridge, before the King's illness ; but on some account or other, she subsequently changed her mind in favour of the Duke of Cumberland. The Queen was so displeased at this conduct, and some other circumstances, that, when her son came with his bride, to renew the marriage according to the English rites, and in conformity to the statute, neither her Majesty, nor any of the Princesses,

honoured the ceremony with their presence; although the Duke of Mecklenburg accompanied the royal pair, for the purpose of reconciling his sister to the match. The duke himself was received at the private parties of the Queen at Windsor, but his daughter and her consort were expressly excluded. Shortly afterwards, all three returned to Germany; not only disappointed by the reception they had met with, where it was least to have been expected, but further mortified by the parliamentary rejection of the proposed grant to the Duke of Cumberland, of an addition to his income on account of his marriage.

The Duke of Mecklenburg died of an apoplexy at his palace of Strelitz, on the sixth of November, aged seventy-five. He had been many years in the Hanoverian service, previous to the year 1794, when he succeeded to the ducal honours and estates. No prince could be more sincerely beloved by his subjects; and, though compelled, against his inclination, to join the Confederation of the Rhine, he managed matters with such judgment, that the inhabitants of Mecklenburg suffered less by that measure than most of their neighbours. He was twice married, and to two sisters of the house of Darmstadt. By the first, he had four children—the Grand Duke Charles, his successor; the Duchesses of Hildburghausen and Cumberland; and the Princess of Tour and Taxis: by the second, he had only one son.

Another royal marriage took place this year, which gave general satisfaction to the people. Under the peculiar circumstances of the reigning family, the Princess Charlotte had become an interesting object of national attachment, on account of her near relation to the throne. For a considerable time, it was commonly believed that a union was about to be formed between the fair hope of

Britain, and the young Prince of Orange, who was certainly a favourite with the royal family, and also with the public, by having been educated in this country, and having served under the illustrious Wellington throughout the whole of the Peninsular war.

But female affections are seldom directed by policy. Among the numerous strangers of rank that visited England in the summer of 1814, was a younger branch of the house of Saxe-Cobourg. It has been confidently affirmed, that Prince Leopold had no thought of the good fortune that awaited him, till, on presenting a letter from the Duke of Brunswick to the Princess, he perceived such symptoms of encouragement as could not be misunderstood. In consequence of these marks of attention, the favoured lover is reported to have waited upon the Regent, and after making him acquainted with all that had passed, and the particular notice paid him by the Princess, to have submitted his readiness to leave the kingdom, if such should be the will of his Royal Highness. The answer was as favourable as could be wished, and from that hour Prince Cobourg was regarded as the intended spouse of the presumptive heiress to the British throne.

All this, if true to the letter, was indeed love at first sight; but there are some questionable points in the narrative, positively as it is asserted, and simply as it is told. In the first place, a letter from the Duke of Brunswick to his niece was proper enough; but then, why send it by a young German prince, little, if at all, known, even in the royal circle? Had the Duke wished merely to introduce his friend to the English court, the better and more becoming course would have been by constituting the prince the bearer of a letter to the Regent himself. According to the story, the Princess was the first to make

her advances, contrary to the ordinarily received and long-established rules of courtship; and in plainer language, it may be said, in a manner not very delicate. Here, however, the subject must be dropped. The tale, as told, would not do, even for a romance of the days of chivalry, and much less so for this age of refinement. It is sufficient to say, that the mission was preconcerted, and, whether fortunately for this country or not, it succeeded.

On the 14th of March, 1816, a message to both houses of parliament announced the royal assent to the marriage; on the day following, large grants to the illustrious couple were proposed in the commons, and passed with all imaginable despatch; and on the second of May, the nuptials were solemnized at Carlton House, the Princess being supported to the altar by her uncle, the Duke of Clarence.

This event, which was hailed as equally auspicious to the nation and the royal family, was followed on the 22d of July, by the marriage, at the Queen's House, of the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Mary, between whom an attachment had grown up from childhood. On this occasion, no application was made to parliament for any pecuniary grant whatever, either by way of outfit or annuity.

Of the great national occurrences of this year, the naval expedition against the piratical states of Barbary was the principal. This important business was intrusted to Lord Exmouth, who was instructed to mediate a peace between those powers and the kingdoms of Sardinia and Naples; to demand that the Ionian islands should be respected as British possessions; and to procure, if possible, the total abolition of Christian slavery.

The admiral found no difficulty in treating with the Tunisian and Tripolitan chiefs; but the Dey of Algiers refused his consent to the last proposition, till he had consulted the Ottoman court, for which purpose an ambassador was despatched to Constantinople. Without waiting for an answer, however, the Dey commenced hostilities by imprisoning the British consul, and perpetrating a horrible massacre on the Europeans engaged in the coral fishery at Bona. In consequence of these outrages, Lord Exmouth returned to Algiers, which, on the refusal of the Dey to make satisfaction, was bombarded; the Queen Charlotte, bearing the admiral's flag, commencing the attack. The place, strong by nature, and made still stronger by additional works, was long and obstinately defended. A tremendous fire on both sides was kept up from a quarter before three to nine, without intermission, and partially for two hours longer. But British heroism overcame all resistance: the Algerine batteries were destroyed; and the navy, the arsenal, and all the military stores, were consumed by fire. Upon this, the Dey, finding the case hopeless, yielded to every demand; and, to the glory of humanity, the admiral crowned his victory by receiving on board his fleet all the slaves, of whatever nation, that were in the dominions of the Dey, who also refunded the money he had received for the redemption of captives since the beginning of the year. The persons now liberated were freely conveyed to their own shores, and the ransom money that had been thus recovered was transmitted, without deduction, to the courts of Sardinia and Naples, from whence it had been originally sent. Such was the service rendered to Christendom by the navy of Great Britain. Well, therefore, might the noble admiral say, in the

exordium to his official despatch, dated on the twenty-eighth of August—

“In all the vicissitudes of a long life of public service, no circumstance has ever produced on my mind such impressions of gratitude and joy, as the event of yesterday. To have been one of the humble instruments, in the hands of Divine Providence, for bringing to reason a ferocious government, and destroying for ever the insufferable and horrid system of Christian slavery, can never cease to be a source of delight and heartfelt comfort to every individual happy enough to be employed in it. I may, I hope, be permitted, under such impressions, to offer my sincere congratulations to their Lordships, on the complete success which attended the gallant efforts of his Majesty’s fleet in their attack upon Algiers yesterday, and the happy result produced from it on this day, by the signature of peace.”

During the action, as Lord Exmouth and Captain Brisbane were conversing together, the latter was struck flat on the deck by a spent ball. The admiral immediately called on the first lieutenant, and said,—“Poor Brisbane is gone, take the command!” This roused the captain, who had only been stunned, and he exclaimed, “Not yet, my lord;” and immediately got up, to resume his station. Lord Exmouth himself received two wounds in the contest; one in the cheek, and another in the thigh; but such was his modesty, he omitted all mention of either in his despatches.

On the 27th of January, this year, the venerable admiral, Lord Hood, one of the earliest friends and instructors of the Duke of Clarence, died at Bath. This veteran had attained the extraordinary age of ninety-two; and his younger brother, though senior officer, Lord Brid-

port, who died at Bath, in 1814, was eighty-seven—two instances of longevity in one family, and of the same service, not easily paralleled. By the death of Lord Hood, the governorship of Greenwich Hospital became vacant; which, on the earnest recommendation of the Duke of Clarence, the Prince Regent conferred upon Sir Richard Keats.

The year 1817 exhibited throughout a very dismal and ominous appearance. When the Prince Regent opened parliament on the 28th of January, he was assailed in going and returning to the House of Lords, by an immense mob, who not only loaded him with the most abusive epithets, but attacked his person. The glass on one side of the carriage was perforated by bullets discharged from an air-gun; and though a reward of one thousand pounds was offered for the discovery of the perpetrators of the outrage, it was without effect. The times were certainly bad, and the distresses of the people were great; but they were made worse by political agitators, who went about to stir up the people, in every part of the kingdom, to disaffection against the government. At this crisis, the Regent, with the advice of his ministers, resolved to apply a fifth part of his revenue, amounting to fifty thousand pounds, to the service of the state. But even this voluntary sacrifice, accompanied as it was by the most liberal acts of benevolence, at Brighton, Windsor, and in the metropolis, failed in allaying the popular excitement.

The uneasiness produced by this perturbed state of things, threw the Queen into a fit of illness; for the relief of which, the Bath waters were recommended by the physicians in consultation. Accordingly, her Majesty went thither, accompanied by the Princess Eliza-

beth and the Duke of Clarence, with the intention of spending the winter at that fashionable place of resort, where three houses were fitted up for the accommodation of the royal visitors. They arrived at Bath in the evening of the third of November; and the next day, the Queen and the Duke of Clarence, who was also an invalid, drank the waters, and afterwards took an airing on the Down. By this time, the city was filled with strangers, and the inhabitants naturally expected a joyful harvest. A sudden thunder-cloud however, arose, and the whole kingdom was overwhelmed with grief. On Thursday morning, after visiting the Pump-room, her Majesty received two addresses; one from the corporation of Bath, and the other from that of Bristol, inviting the royal presence in the third city of the kingdom. To this request a gracious promise was given; and the Duke of Clarence, who introduced the deputation, expressed much satisfaction in saying, that the visit should take place in a few days.

At about four o'clock, a king's messenger arrived with letters from Lord Sidmouth, stating that the Princess Charlotte had been delivered of a still-born male child, but that her Royal Highness was doing extremely well. The news was affecting, but it was merely the shock of present disappointment, leaving behind it the prospect of better hopes. At six o'clock, the Queen and Princess Elizabeth sat down to dinner, with a small party, when another messenger arrived, bearing a despatch to General, now Sir Herbert Taylor. He retired, and, on reading the letter which announced the death of the Princess Charlotte at half-past two that morning, he desired Lady Ilchester to be called out. These circumstances so struck the Queen, that, without waiting

for information, she said, "I know what's the matter," and fainted away.

The mayor and corporation of Bath, who with so much satisfaction addressed her Majesty in the morning, had repaired to the Guildhall to dine together, with a large company of the first distinction. Before the tables were cleared, one of the royal pages brought a letter to Sir Henry Halford, by whom it was given to the Duke of Clarence, who read it with agitated feelings, rose from his seat, and departed. In a faltering tone of voice, the Marquis of Camden then proposed a suspension of the entertainment, and every individual withdrew in silence.

Meanwhile the Queen had a succession of fits during the night; but the next day she was somewhat better, and expressed a determination to return directly to Windsor. Accordingly, on Saturday morning, as early as seven o'clock, her Majesty, the Princess Elizabeth, and the Duke of Clarence, set out with heavy hearts; but did not reach the castle till six in the evening.

The day of the funeral, Tuesday the 18th of November, was one of general and unaffected mourning, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the kingdom. It was a day of voluntary humiliation, of a total cessation from business, and of sad and silent meditation on the instability of all sublunary hopes. The solemnity in St. George's Chapel, when the royal remains were consigned to the vault, was rendered peculiarly affecting by the appearance of Prince Leopold, as chief mourner, supported on either hand by the two next heirs in succession after the Regent, the Dukes of York and Clarence.

When the melancholy intelligence reached Paris, the public sympathy was strongly excited, and honourably expressed in that capital. The places of amusement were closed;

on the exchange, the ordinary course of business was suspended ; and the public journals were unanimous in the language of concern for a loss, which, as they observed, would perhaps affect, not the welfare of England alone, but the current of history, and the fate of nations, throughout the European world. The remark was just ; and our own chronicles exhibit proofs that great changes have resulted from calamities of this nature.

Thus, to name only a few instances. The death of Arthur, Prince of Wales, occasioned the abolition of the Papal supremacy, and the introduction of the Reformation into these realms :—the death of Edward the Sixth in his minority, though in itself an incalculable loss, ultimately proved beneficial, by giving permanency to the Protestant religion, and liberty to the United Provinces, and other states :—in the succeeding reign, the death of Henry, Prince of Wales, gave the crown to his brother Charles, which prepared the way for two revolutions ; one of a sanguinary, and the other of a pacific character. The restoration of the monarchy fixed the constitution ; and the abdication of James the Second secured the Protestant religion ; but the death of Mary, the consort of William the Third, without issue, produced another change :—the hopes of the people now rested upon the young Duke of Gloucester, the only surviving child of the Princess Anne of Denmark ; but here again the national hopes were blasted by the death of the prince at the age of eleven years. With Queen Anne, the line of Stuart terminated ; but the mutations of royalty did not end here. The death of Frederick Prince of Wales was followed by the war of seven years, which produced, under his son George the Third, the separation of America from the crown of Britain, and the revolution

of France. Lastly, the stroke which, by cutting off from the elder branch of the royal house of Brunswick two generations at once, left the succession in a dislocated state, and the nation with discouraging prospects.

As a proof that the present loss was one to be lamented by all who had the interests of virtue and their country at heart, the following anecdote will be sufficient.—In one of her walks with Prince Leopold, the winter before her death, the Princess addressed a decent-looking man, who was employed as a day-labourer, and said, “My friend, you appear to have seen better days.”—“I have, madam,” replied the man, “I once rented a good farm, but the change in the times has ruined me.” At this, the Princess, much affected, turned to the Prince, and said, “Let us be thankful to Providence for his blessings, and endeavour to fulfil the important duties required of us, by making our suffering fellow-creatures happy.” On their return home, her Royal Highness ordered the steward to obtain a list of all the deserving objects of charity in the neighbourhood, with their particular circumstances and families : after which, the clerk of the kitchen was appointed to distribute food daily to those which stood most in need. Instead of frivolous sports and extravagant festivities, on the birth-days of the Prince and Princess in December and January, two hundred pounds were laid out in supplying the poor with clothing. Such was the star of promise, that beamed for a short space above the horizon, and was then removed in mercy from the evil to come, and to enjoy the reward of righteousness in a better world.

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1817 TO 1818.

AFTER the funeral of the lamented Princess, the Duke of Clarence returned to Bath with his mother and sister, for the benefit of the salubrious springs of that place, which were strongly recommended to His Royal Highness, as well as to her Majesty. The Duke had been for some years subject to periodical fits of the gout, and spasmodic affections of the stomach, for which disorders, the mineral water of Bath has always been regarded as a specific. In most cases, however, the advantage derived by the invalids, who resort to this celebrated temple of Hygæia, may be ascribed as much to the change of air, the pleasantness of the scene, and the potential operation of the fancy, as to Bladud's renovating fountain. Yet, if the afflicted find, or imagine, themselves relieved, though but for a little while, in their downward path to oblivion—who would wish to deprive them of the illusive comfort? The Spenserian stanzas of Dr. Oliver, here suspended in the pump-room, were much admired by the royal party; to whose change of circumstances, since their first visit, they were particularly appropriate :

Alwhyle ye drynke, 'mydst age and ac he ybent,
 Ah, creepe not comfortlesse beside oure streame;
 (Sweet nurse of Hope) Afflyctions downwarde sente,
 Wythe styll smalle voyce, to rouze from thriftless dreame,
 Eache wyng to prune, that shyft ythe everie spraie
 In wytlesse flyghte, and chyrpythe lyfe awaie.

Alwhyle ye lave—such solace may be founde :

“ When kynde the hand, why ’neath its healyng faynte ?

“ Payne shall recure the heartes corrupted wounde ;

“ Farre gone is that whyche feelethe not its playnte :

“ By kyndrede angel smote, Bethesda gave

“ Newe vyrtues forthe, and felte her troublede wave.”

Thus drynke, thus lave—nor ever more lamente ;

Our springes but flowe, pale anguish to befrende.

How fayre the meed that followeth contente !

How bleste to lyve, and fynde such anguish mend.

How bleste to dye—when sufferynge Faithe makes sure,

At Lyfe’s high founte, an everlastyng cure.

A few days after her return to Bath, the Queen, remembering the promise she had given to pay the ancient city of Bristol a visit, performed that engagement ; and fortunately, though it was in the middle of winter, the weather was uncommonly fine, insomuch that her Majesty was enabled to ascend the lofty hill of Clifton, and to enjoy from the Down the romantic scenery stretching along the banks of the Avon to the Severn. At Bristol the Duke of Clarence was entertained by the corporation, who presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box. The same token of loyal affection and respect was also tendered to the illustrious visitor by the corporation of Bath.

At this time a negociation was pending for the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth and the hereditary Prince of Hesse Homburg, one of the oldest friends, and fellow-student, of the Duke of Kent. The treaty for this alliance having been brought to a conclusion, the Queen and Princess, with the Duke of Clarence, at the end of February, left Bath for Windsor, and three weeks afterwards her Majesty removed to Buckingham House, to be pre-

sent at the celebration of the nuptials. On the 7th of April, 1818, the ceremony took place; the bride being led to the altar by the Dukes of Clarence and Kent, was there given away, in the necessary absence of the Prince Regent, by the Duke of York.

It was now that the mischief of the royal marriage act became obvious in its effects upon the succession; as, from a numerous and promising offspring, there remained to the reigning monarch no legitimate descendant, either of the male or female branches.

Under these circumstances, when the nation had in prospect "a broken lineage and a doubtful throne;" it became indispensably necessary that the unmarried Princes should enter into the connubial state. The first to obey the call were the Dukes of Clarence and Cambridge; the one with the Princess of Saxe-Meinengen, and the other with the Princess of Hesse. On the 19th of April, a royal message was delivered to each house of parliament, announcing the consent of the Regent to the proposed alliances, and recommending that a suitable provision for their support should be made.

On the 15th, the Earl of Liverpool, in the house of lords, stated, that it had been the intention of ministers to propose an addition of £19,500 a year to the income of the Duke of Clarence, and of £12,000 to the Duke of Cambridge. A similar sum was to have been proposed for the Duke of Kent, in the event of his marriage. It was judged proper also to propose a grant of the same amount to the Duke of Cumberland; for the Earl said, he knew of nothing in his conduct, or that of the Duchess, which should subject them to the stigma of having no parliamentary provision, upon their marriage. The Duke of Gloucester had declined applying to parliament; but

his present income approximated that which was now proposed for the junior branches, being £28,000 a year. If the intended settlements should undergo modifications in another place, it would be for their lordships to consider them when sent up in separate bills; but he hoped the allowances would not be so reduced as to prevent the intended matrimonial alliances. The illustrious persons would, he was authorized to state, be satisfied with about half the sum that had been mentioned. The noble premier then observed, that these grants would not create any new burdens upon the people, as £10,000 a year had fallen in by the death of the Princess Charlotte, and £50,000 per annum would fall in the next year, upon the complete liquidation of the debts of the Prince Regent. His lordship concluded with moving an address, which was, as usual, an echo to the message. After the rejection of an amendment moved by Lord King, the original address was agreed to.

In the commons, the business took a very different and a most unpleasant turn. Lord Castlereagh, after a statement corresponding in substance with that of the Earl of Liverpool, proposed an additional allowance of £10,000 a year to the Duke of Clarence, and £6,000 to the junior Dukes. The grant to the Duke of Clarence was moved first; upon which it was encountered by Mr. Barclay, one of the members for Southwark, who opposed it, as he said, on account of the over-burdened state of the country. He concluded with moving, that the chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again. Mr. Holme Sumner, one of the representatives for the county of Surrey, said he would agree to a vote for £6,000, and no more, to the Duke of Clarence. Report stated, the honourable member observed, that the

Duke's debts amounted to between fifty and sixty thousand pounds. Ministers, he thought, did not act fairly in hooking the Duke of Cumberland among the others, after the house had negatived his former application. Mr. Sumner, however, highly praised the Duke of Cambridge, who had, he said, continued to sustain the character given of him, in his younger years, by his revered Father. The King, using the language of Eton school, said, "Cambridge has not committed his first fault yet." Lord Castlereagh, in reply, assured the house, that if the resolutions were agreed to, and £30,000 were granted, the Duke of Clarence, after relieving him from pressing demands, and making a provision for the ultimate extinction of his debts, would have £25,000 free and unencumbered income.

In the sequel of the discussion, Mr. Barclay withdrew his amendment, and Mr. Sumner then moved to reduce the additional grant of £6,000 to the Duke of Clarence. This motion, after a warm debate, was carried by one hundred and ninety-three, to one hundred and eighty-four votes. The result was received with loud and indecent shouts of applause; after which, Lord Castlereagh rose, and said, that since the house had thought proper to refuse the larger sum to the Duke of Clarence, he believed he might say that the negociation for this marriage was at an end.

On the following day, the same nobleman informed the house, that he had waited on the Duke of Clarence, and apprised him of the vote of the preceding night. His Royal Highness, in reply, expressed his conviction, that with the allowance now offered, he could not maintain a proper establishment, in the event of his marriage, without the liability of running into debt; and that, under

these circumstances, he felt the necessity of declining to avail himself of the proposed allowance.

The house then resolved itself into a committee on the additional grant to the Duke of Cambridge. Mr. Brougham objected to the principle that £6,000 should be granted to the junior branches of the royal family; but if it were to be granted, why, he asked, did ministers commence with the youngest, and pass by the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, who had most worthily adopted measures to get rid of their encumbrances without laying additional burdens on the country? To the Duke of Cambridge, least of all, he thought, was such an allowance necessary. He had already £18,000 a year, besides free lodgings and a free table in a royal palace; he had also £6,000 a year in Hanover; and having always been an economist, he possessed considerable savings in our funds. But, added the orator, if the allowance be necessary to enable him to marry, let the great property of the heads of the royal house be made available for the purpose.

Lord Castlereagh protested against this line of argument, as tending to the double course of invidious reflection and unfair comparison. There was no other reason, he said, for proposing the vote to the Duke of Cambridge, but that the negotiation for his marriage had been long in train. He did not think the house should take into consideration the emoluments of the temporary situation which the Duke held in Hanover at the earnest desire of his brother.

Mr. Wilberforce did not think the proposed sum too large. But he condemned the royal marriage act, which precluded the several branches of the august family from entertaining the best feelings, and from forming connexions which would at once promote their happiness

and guarantee their virtue. It seemed to imply, that they could be rendered better political characters by being worse men, which was one of the most mistaken notions, as well as the most immoral of doctrines.

On a division, the resolution was carried by a large majority. But that for a similar grant to the Duke of Cumberland was negatived. On this last motion, it merits being told, that Mr. Littleton, the member for Staffordshire, and a zealous oppositionist, defended the Duke of Cumberland's claim in the strongest terms. He said, the more the character of the royal personage was known, the more it would excite regard and esteem. As to the insinuations that had been thrown out against him, no assertion of their truth had ever been made; and he should be ashamed if he could be induced by any love of popularity to give credit to them for a moment.

Lord Castlereagh then proposed a dower of £6,000 to the Duchess of Cumberland, which was agreed to; but her Royal Highness declined accepting the favour. Soon after, the Duke of Clarence, upon a reconsideration of the case, and a consultation with his friends, was induced to revoke the resolution he had made, not to enter into the matrimonial state.

The correspondence with the Princess of Meiningen was in consequence resumed, and, as his Royal Highness could not take a journey to Germany, the Duchess dowager and her daughter set out for England, where they landed on the 11th of July, and on the 13th the marriage took place in the palace at Kew. The Duke of Kent and his Duchess, the sister of Prince Leopold, were at the same time re-married according to the rites of the established church. Fortunately, the Queen was so far better as to be able to be present at the double ceremonial, for which pur-

pose a temporary altar was fitted up in her Majesty's drawing-room, overlooking the gardens. At four o'clock, the whole of the party having arrived, the Queen took her seat at the right side of the altar, attended by the Prince Regent, who was followed by the other members of the royal family, and the great officers of state. The Duke of Clarence, with his bride elect, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent, who had already been married in the Lutheran form abroad, being introduced, and having taken their station at the altar, the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London, commenced the service. Both the brides were given away by the Prince Regent, after which they knelt with their illustrious partners before the Queen, who gave them her blessing; and then retired into the adjoining room, being too feeble to remain with the company. At five o'clock, the Prince Regent, the rest of his relatives and friends, sat down to a most sumptuous dinner, which lasted till seven; and about half an hour afterwards, the Duke and Duchess of Kent departed for Claremont. The Regent, and the remaining Royal party then proceeded in open carriages to the Cottage in Kew gardens, near the Pagoda, where they drank tea, after which, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, with the Dowager of Meiningen, left the palace for the house of his Royal Highness at St. James's. The marriage of the Duke of Cambridge and the Princess of Hesse had been solemnized about five weeks before, in the presence of the Queen and the father of the bride, at Buckingham House. Soon after this ceremony, their Royal Highnesses, with the Landgrave, left England for Hanover. The Duke and Duchess of Clarence also took a final leave of the Queen in a few days after their marriage, and proceeded to the Continent, with the

intention of spending the remainder of the year in Germany.

These were painful separations to the Royal patient ; but the most distressing of all was the parting from the Princess Elizabeth, who had always been the favourite daughter of her Majesty.

This affecting scene took place at Buckingham House on the morning of the third of June, when the Prince of Hesse Homburg and his excellent consort left the metropolis for Brighton ; with the express condition, that if the shock, as might be feared, should produce any alarming effects upon the Queen, her Royal Highness was to return immediately. Happily for both parties, the apprehended danger did not occur : the mind of the venerable invalid rose superior, in the hour of trial, to the weakness of nature ; and the accounts of her Majesty's health were so far favourable, that at the end of a week, the Prince and Princess left Brighton for Dover, where they embarked, and landed at Calais, from whence they proceeded to Frankfort, by the way of Brussels.

Such was the dispersed state of the royal family at this time, when the heads of it were brought into the valley of the shadow of death—the one unconscious of what was passing around him, and the other incapable of enjoying the satisfaction of seeing the dearest object of her earthly regard, and of dying under the same roof where he was secluded. The disorder with which the Queen was afflicted admitted of no hope. The anasarcous appearances, and spasmodic attacks, made it necessary that precautionary measures should be adopted for the care of the King's person, in the event of her Majesty's dissolution. Accordingly, at the close of the session,

two amendments in the regency act were passed ; one empowering the Queen to add six new members to her council ; and the other repealing the clause which required the immediate assembling of a new parliament on the demise of her Majesty. But though it was evident that the anticipated event could not be far distant, the Royal patient herself entertained, to the last, hopes of a recovery. Her thoughts were continually on the wing for Windsor ; and to gratify the desire she felt to be where the King was, various expedients were devised, but all without effect.

At the beginning of August, the Queen seemed somewhat better, and continued, for about a fortnight, to improve so much, as to excite the hope that she would recover strength enough to bear the journey upon which she was so intensely anxious. But the illusion soon vanished, and, before the end of the month, the spasmodic attacks came on again with increasing violence, each fit leaving the Royal sufferer in a state of exhaustion and debility. This warfare in the system, between a constitution naturally excellent, and a complication of ailments springing from one diseased organ, went on until the end of September, when the malady once more abated, through the skill of the medical attendants ; and her Majesty was again enabled to bear being wheeled in her chair from one room to the other, where she received a few select friends. The arrival of General Campbell with letters from the Princess of Homburg, contributed much to this temporary recovery ; which, however, was of very short duration. On the evening of the 19th of October, the spasms were frequent, and one of the physicians gave it as his decided opinion, that death would close the scene in a fortnight. Though the

prediction was not exactly fulfilled, yet on the fifth of November, the fits of coughing were so severe, that every person in attendance expected each paroxysm would be the last. In this pitiable state, the aged and worn-out patient continued till the sixteenth, when certain appearances of mortification indicated the fatal crisis to be at hand. Her Majesty received the tidings without any emotion ; and after pausing a few moments, she dictated her will to Sir Herbert Taylor, with as much precision and composure as if she had been in perfect health, or was about to take an excursion into the country.

The same placidity continued to the last, and providentially she was not only free from pain, but in the entire possession of her mental faculties, when the Prince Regent and the Duke of York, who had been sent for by express, reached Kew on the seventeenth at noon. On their arrival, they went, accompanied by the Princess Augusta and the Duchess of Gloucester, into the dying chamber ; where they were instantly recognized by the Queen, who smiled upon them all, and, while holding the hand of the Regent, closed her eyes in

a death-like sleep ;

A gentle wafting to immortal life.

Thus died this exemplary model of public and private virtue, in the seventy-fifth year of her age, and the fifty-eighth of her residence in England.

On Tuesday, the first of December, the ceremony of lying in state, as it is called, took place, though on a contracted scale ; and the next day the royal obsequies were solemnized at Windsor, the Regent attending as chief mourner, supported by the Dukes of York and Sussex. Throughout the awful ceremony, all eyes were fixed upon the Prince, who was evidently absorbed in

grief. He was long known to have been the favourite son of his mother ; and this was the occasion, when, as might be expected, filial piety would appear in the outward traits of affectionate sorrow. Besides, the paternal concern of the Prince for the loss which he had just sustained, must have been heightened by the remembrance, that in the vault, now disclosed to his view, were deposited the remains of his only child, who, had Providence permitted, would after himself have succeeded to the throne. But amidst the pomp and pageantry of regal grandeur, what was there in the crown worth contemplating with pleasure, by a man far in the decline of life, isolated and childless ? The world to the Regent was now become a blank ; and the prospect that lay before him, exhibited only shadows of further changes, more likely to depress than to console the mind under its present bereavement.

With respect to the departed Queen, it is barely just to say, that her life, extended, as it had been, beyond the common bound of mortality, was irreproachable. Yet such is the tax levied upon greatness, that even the character of this illustrious personage, not more exalted in rank than in moral worth, was not suffered to escape the persecution of malignant tongues. By some she was accused of exercising an undue and injurious influence over the mind of the King, in matters of government. Every person, however, that had any acquaintance with the court of George the Third, and especially with his personal disposition, treated this aspersion with the contempt due to a romantic and despicable fiction. Another imputation cast upon the Queen obtained more credence ; and to those who had no means of knowing better, it had the appearance of being founded on truth. Owing to the private and economical mode of life, early

adopted and constantly pursued in the royal household, the report spread, that the Queen was not only parsimonious, but extremely avaricious. Libellers of all sorts made the most of this calumny, and founded upon it numerous slanderous tales, to the disparagement of their Majesties. Death made public, what the humility of a long life had carefully concealed. After the interment of the Queen, it was proved, that, so far from being greedy of gain, and uncharitable to the poor, her income was always inadequate to the bounties she bestowed upon private individuals and public institutions. Her annual benefactions in pensions and subscriptions exceeded five thousand pounds; but even that sum fell short of what her Majesty gave away occasionally to distressed objects, and in aid of meritorious designs. To one female institution alone, in the course of her life, she gave twenty-five thousand pounds.

Among the many other anecdotes that might be related of her Majesty's benevolence, the following merits particular notice, as an instance of charity connected with prudence. A female, unknown to the Queen, one day presented a petition at Windsor. The memorial stated that the applicant was the widow of an officer, left with twelve children totally unprovided for. The Queen made inquiries, and, the result being satisfactory, she took all the orphans under her own protection. Some time afterwards, the lady married a person in affluent circumstances; upon being made acquainted with which, her Majesty, very properly, sent back the children, that her bounty might be transferred to other objects.

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1818 to 1819.

It is necessary now to follow the Duke of Clarence and his consort to Hanover, where they spent the winter of 1818, and the spring of the following year.

As the present memoir would be defective without some account of the Family to which his Royal Highness was now allied, we shall therefore devote a chapter to that interesting subject.

In the sixteenth century, the three successive electors of Saxony, Frederic the Wise, John the Constant, and John Frederic the Magnanimous, all embraced the Lutheran religion, for which they suffered much in their persons and estates; but particularly the last mentioned Prince, who was deposed by the arbitrary decree of the Germanic council. After his death, John, his son, was prevailed upon by a desperate adventurer, of the name of Grumbach, to attempt the recovery of his hereditary dominions. The effort failed, and the unfortunate Prince was thrown into prison, where he died in 1595, after a confinement of twenty-eight years. In the mean time, the duchies of Gotha and Weimar were vested in his younger brother, John William. He was succeeded by his son, the Duke John, of whose ten sons, two acquired renown in the history of the seventeenth century.

One of them was Bernard, Duke of Weimar, who joined the heroic Gustavus Adolphus, and was with him

when he fell at the battle of Lutzen ; after which, the duke assumed the command of the allied German and Swedish army. Providence favoured all the undertakings of Bernard. Among other achievements, he conquered the Brisgau, the oldest possession of the house of Hapsburg ; and he would have added the whole of that valuable district to his national domain, but for the intrigues of Cardinal Richelieu, who endeavoured to draw him aside, by proposing a marriage between the Saxon prince and the Duchess d'Aiguillon. The scheme was frustrated, by Bernard's rejection of the offer ; and shortly after, in 1639, he died, not without suspicion of poison.

One of his elder brothers was Ernest the First, Duke of Gotha and Altenberg, commonly and deservedly called the Pious. He likewise joined Gustavus Adolphus in the memorable enterprise for the deliverance of Germany. At the battle of Lutzen, he sustained the shock of the fresh forces brought up by the fierce Pappenheim, and repulsed them, with the loss of their commander. Soon after, at the request of his brother Bernard, he quitted the army, and devoted himself to the healing of the wounds of his country, and to the repair of its ruins. The miseries which the war of thirty years had brought upon Germany, surpasses all power of language to describe. Ernest became in every respect the father of his people. He encouraged and assisted, to the utmost of his power, in the rebuilding of private habitations and public edifices, the revival of agriculture, the improvement of roads, the construction of canals, the embanking of rivers, and the advancement of industry in general. He also gave a beneficent constitution to his estates ; and he re-organized the system of administration. He founded or restored schools and colleges for all ranks ; and for the

poor he established hospitals, and alms-houses with schools for orphans. He was careful to procure pious and liberal clergymen for the towns and villages. He laboured to allay differences and disputes of all kinds ; for which purpose, and to promote evangelical charity, he employed powerful means to circulate the Bible among the people. He took likewise a lively interest in all those plans that were formed to extend the knowledge of the gospel in heathen and unenlightened nations. For the education of his own children, he was careful to adopt the best practical means, without having recourse to new and untried theories. Above all, his personal character in the virtues of public and private life, was a consistent and uniform illustration of Christian precepts.

Well, therefore, did this truly great prince merit the title which, by common consent, he bore, of Ernest the Pious. He died at the age of seventy-four, in 1675. He was the founder of the New or United House of Gotha. It was his wish to preserve the unity of his dominions, but his plan for that object could not be carried into effect ; and shortly after his death, the domain was divided among his seven sons. Hence arose the seven subdivisions of this branch of the Ernestine line of the ancient electoral house of Saxony, the families of Gotha, Cobourg, Meiningen, Romhild, Eisenberg, Hildburghausen, and Saalfeld. The four last have since, by the default of heirs male, or by marriages and treaties, been incorporated into the three preceding duchies. The third of the above mentioned seven sons was Bernard, who received, as his appanage, the ducal principality of Saxe Meiningen ; to which, by the death of his brother Albert in 1699, he also obtained some additional territory. He died in 1706, and the inheritance

passed to his three sons, who reigned in conjunction. The survivor was Anthony Ulric, who died in 1763, when the succession and political administration were vested in his two sons, Augustus Frederick Charles, and George Frederick Charles, but not without opposition; the history of which is too curious and remarkable to be omitted.

Duke Anthony Ulric married first, Philippine Cæsar; but she being the daughter of a tradesman, the children by her were, in 1747, decreed, in a diet of the empire, incapable of succeeding to the title and estates of Meiningen, as being, on the maternal side, of ignoble blood. On the death of the first duchess, the duke married a princess of the house of Hesse Philipstadt, by whom he had male issue as just stated, and some daughters. Anthony, some time before his death, made a will, by which he constituted four of his sons, two of the first, and two of the second alliance, universal heirs of the duchy, as well as of all the other fiefs, titles, and pretensions whatever. This will being contrary to the decree of the empire, the Dukes of Saxe Gotha, Cobourg, and Hildburghausen, united to set it aside by force. They also pretended, that, as nearest in relation, they had a right to the guardianship of the children by the second marriage. The confederate dukes then sent deputies to Meiningen, with a body of troops, who, as soon as they came near the city, demanded admittance, and were refused. On this, they summoned the place to surrender, and received the same answer. The weather being very bad, Colonel Seltzer, who commanded this force, took possession of an ale-house outside the walls, and quartered his men, as well as he could, in and about the premises; but they had scarcely entered, when a terrible fire from the ram-

parts dislodged them with the loss of some lives. The affair having thus become serious, the Aulic council assembled, on an application from the Duchess dowager of Saxe Meiningen, complaining of the treatment she had experienced from her relatives, and claiming the Imperial protection. Meanwhile, the troops of the three princes ravaged the country, and, having effected an entry into the city, disarmed the inhabitants, and committed scandalous outrages.

The duchess again demanded succour from the emperor ; and, in consequence, a new rescript was addressed to the combined dukes, commanding them to withdraw their troops from Meiningen, and to make satisfaction for the injuries they had committed, and the damages that had been sustained by the people of that territory. At the same time, a rescript was sent to the other princes of the circles of Franconia and Saxony, enjoining them, without delay, to put the Imperial decree into execution ; to take the duchess dowager, her children, and subjects, under their protection ; and immediately to adopt measures for the re-establishment of peace and tranquillity. The dukes of Gotha, Cobourg, and Hildburghausen were further cited to appear before the Imperial tribunal within two months, to answer for their infraction of the public peace, and to receive judgment as to the pecuniary compensation to be made to the Duchess of Meiningen and her family. The emperor in the same mandate declared, that the duchess dowager was sole guardian of her children by the late Duke Anthony Ulric, and also regent of the estates during the minority of the elder prince. In order to set at rest any claim that the children of the first duchess might be disposed to advance, on the ground of priority, and their father's will, it was

determined that Bernard Ernest, the eldest son of that marriage, had no right to bear the name, title, arms, and seal of Saxony, but that he and his brother should be acknowledged as princes of the empire only.

Thus ended this extraordinary contest, which affords a striking picture of the pride of birth, and of the jealousy with which the families of Germany watched over the purity of ancestral blood, lest it should be contaminated by plebeian mixture. Here it merits observation, by the way, that at no period of the English history, till the reign of George the Third, can we trace any thing like this haughty and forbidding spirit. Even Henry the Eighth never thought of setting aside Elizabeth on the ground that her mother was the daughter of commoners; and the licentious Charles the Second obliged his brother to acknowledge Anne Hyde as his wife, saying, in allusion to the lady's origin—that as James had brewed, so he must bake.

But to return to the Meiningen family. In 1782, Augustus Frederick Charles, the eldest son of Anthony Ulric by his second duchess, died without issue; upon which, the succession remained with his brother George, who was born in 1761, and married Louisa Eleonora, daughter of Christian Albert Lewis, Prince of Hohenlohe Langenberg; by whom he had three children: 1. ADELAIDE LOUISA THERESA CAROLINE AMELIA, the present Queen of Great Britain, born on the 13th of August, 1792; 2. Ida, born in 1794, and married, in 1816, to Bernard, son of the archduke Charles Augustus of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, by whom she has issue. 3. Bernard Henry, the reigning duke of Saxe Meiningen, born in 1800, and married in 1825 to Mary, the daughter of Prince William of Hesse Cassel. George Frederick Charles,

duke of Meiningen, died on the 24th of December, 1803, at the age of forty-two; and, by his last will, left the guardianship of his children, and the administration of his estates, to the duchess dowager as regent.

Under this excellent and accomplished woman, the children were educated in great retirement, and with a strict regard to their morals, and improvement in every branch of polite and useful learning. From earliest childhood, the princess Adelaide, in particular, was remarkable for her sedate disposition, and rather reserved habits. The greatest portion of her time, it is said, was devoted to her studies; and though perfectly cheerful with her intimate companions, she took little pleasure in the gaieties and frivolities of fashion. Even when arrived at more matured years, she manifested a strong dislike to that laxity of morals, and contempt for religious feeling, which had sprung out of the French revolution, and infected almost all the courts in Germany. That of Meiningen, fortunately, by its seclusion and apparent insignificance, but, above all, by the prudent management of the dowager regent, escaped, like an oasis in the arid desert, the visitation of the troublers of the earth. Napoleon, it seems, did not think it worth his while to bestow his attention upon so trivial a spot as Meiningen; and thus the regent duchess was left in undisturbed possession of her authority, and the tranquil enjoyment of domestic comfort; while the larger states became exposed to a train of evils, of which atheism and immorality were not the least. Thus favoured by Providence, the little court of Meiningen was distinguished by its purity of principles, and its two princesses were objects of admiration by their exemplary conduct. Their chief delight was in establishing and superintending schools

for the education of the lower classes of the community, and in providing food and raiment for the aged, helpless, and destitute.

The Princess Adelaide, in particular, was the life of every institution, that had for its object the happiness of her fellow-creatures. It has been said, and evidently on good authority, that the late Queen Charlotte had long kept her eye upon this virtuous family, with a view to the union of the elder princess with one of her Majesty's sons; and that, when the Duke of Cambridge had chosen a partner for himself, she strongly recommended Adelaide of Meiningen to the Duke of Clarence.

At the beginning of the next year, the agreeable intelligence arrived, that the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duchess of Clarence were in such a state, as gave the most desirable prospect to the house of Brunswick. On the 26th of March, the former was delivered of a son at Hanover, much to the joy of the family, and of the inhabitants. On the day following, the Duchess of Clarence was taken in labour, at the same place, and gave birth to a daughter. The infant prince lived, and received the name of George; but the Duke of Clarence was not so fortunate in regard to his first-born. The young princess being only a seven-months' child, survived but a few hours; after being baptized, according to the rites of the church of England, by the names of Charlotte-Augusta-Louisa.

This misfortune was occasioned by a cold, which the Duchess caught in promenading the palace gardens, and which ended in a severe pleuritic attack, that rendered copious bleeding necessary, and brought on a premature delivery. The royal bud of an illustrious stock was interred very privately the next day, in the same vault

which contained the remains of the great elector, Ernest Augustus, and his son, George the First, king of England.

The recovery of the Duchess was for some time exceedingly doubtful, but at length she was pronounced out of danger, and was then advised by the physicians to travel for the perfect re-establishment of her health.

Accordingly, at the end of April, her Royal Highness left Hanover for Meiningen, taking Gottingen and Hesse Philipstahl by the way, where the Duchess had some intimate friends and near relatives. Nothing could surpass the joy of the good people of Saxony, in again beholding their beloved princess. For many miles round, they collected at the frontier, to welcome the royal pair, whom they conducted in triumph to the capital of the duchy, where fête succeeded fête, and all was holiday for the space of a month.

The extent of the territory of Meiningen is about six hundred and eighty square English miles, and the population one hundred and forty thousand; that is, a little larger than the county of Hertford. The people of the entire country are supported by agriculture, a few simple manufactures, and their mutual trade. Of course, there are not, what may be called, many wealthy families, in such a confined district. They are governed according to the constitution of Ernest the Pious, and have an elective house of representatives, the members of which are chosen for six years.

Meiningen, the capital, contains nearly five thousand inhabitants. It is called proverbially the city of the Harp; from a natural phenomenon in the vicinity. On a mountain ridge is a cavern, from which, when the wind is favourable, issue sounds more beautiful and powerful than those of the ancient æolian harp. The town is hand-

some, and completely embosomed in green sylvan hills, along the right bank of the river Werra. The suburbs are richly planted, and sprinkled with numerous white summer-houses.

From the castle, the court removed, at the end of a month, to the baths of Liebenstein, where the Duchess dowager has a delightful villa in the Italian style. The mineral waters here are in much request for their restorative qualities; and, in the opinion of Dr. Beattie, from whose entertaining travels the above sketch is taken, the springs of Liebenstein may rival those of the far-famed waters of Pyrmont. At a short distance from the baths, and approached by a beautiful serpentine walk through the wood, is a singular congeries of rocks, piled and distributed in such a manner, as more to resemble the work of art than the sport of nature. They rise from an arena of about fifty yards in circumference, and have the appearance of the successive stages of an amphitheatre. At the top, the tall lindens with which the space is encircled, so intermingle their branches, as to form a sylvan canopy over the whole enclosure. This secluded romantic spot forms a delightful retreat in the heat of summer. The author, whom we have just quoted, thinks it might have been a place of meeting for some of those secret confederacies in ancient times, whose power made even emperors tremble, and from whose vengeance neither fortress nor sanctuary afforded a security. Now, however, it is devoted to much more laudable purposes, being the sacred rendezvous of lovers and nightingales; where a stranger, if cautious and discreet, may listen to the songs or the sorrows of both, without disturbing either. From this point there is a delightful walk along the heights back

to the baths, every where shaded with luxuriant woods, and odoriferous plants and flowers, with which the whole country abounds. At proper distances, seats are placed for the accommodation of the passenger, each opening to charming vistas, and presenting a beautiful variety of picturesque scenery. Immediately beneath this elevation, is the principality of Barchfeldt, a family nearly allied to that of Meiningen, and illustrious for the patriotism and high military character of its princes.

From the mineral waters, and other indications, it is evident that beneath the surface of the earth, in this part, there lie immense riches, which, elsewhere, would stimulate the spirit of enterprise to great exertions and profitable returns. Coal, it is said, might be had for the mere working: but to that fuel the people of the country inherit from their ancestors a rooted aversion. Nothing is used for culinary or other purposes, but wood; with rafts of which, therefore, the river is continually covered. As every householder has an allotted portion of the adjacent forest for his use; if the population shall increase, the consumption of wood must in time clear the country of timber, and thus compel the people to lay aside their prejudices against the use of what nature has provided.

The virtues of the Liebenstein waters, the presence of objects endeared by the recollections of early days, and the fond attentions of beloved relations, had the happiest effect upon the Duchess of Clarence; so that her health being now renovated, she very cheerfully consented to return to England. This was at the end of the summer, but it was not till the middle of October that the preparations for the journey were completed; and then the roads had become very bad for travelling.

Her Royal Highness, however, knowing the Duke's anxiety to be at home, persevered with uncommon resolution, and, after suffering considerable fatigue, reached Dunkirk, where she miscarried, and was again taken seriously ill. The Royal Sovereign yacht was sent over immediately on the notice of the arrival of the Duke and Duchess at that port; but the removal of her Royal Highness was delayed some days, in consequence of the injury she had sustained, and then it was only at her own urgent importunity that the embarkation took place. The passage was quick, but rough; and, on landing at Dover, the Duchess found herself too weak to bear a journey to London, even by short and easy stages. Under these circumstances, and at the recommendation of the physicians, the royal invalid accepted the invitation of the Earl of Liverpool, to take up her residence at Walmer Castle. In about six weeks, she recovered sufficiently to leave the coast; and, with the Duke, who never left her, proceeded to Clarence House, St. James's, to spend the winter—Bushy being then under a thorough repair.

As soon, however, as that house became tenable, her Royal Highness removed thither, to enjoy that tranquillity, and freedom from fashionable life, which constituted her principal delight. The Duke participated in this taste and sentiment; besides which, he wished to superintend the improvements that were then going on at his favourite residence in person, and with that strict regard to economy which his circumstances rendered necessary.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1819 TO 1820.

THE family circle of the Duke of Clarence was now agreeably enlarged, by the return of the eldest of his Royal Highness's sons from India, whither, as before observed, he had been expatriated with his brother, on account of their concern in the prosecution of Colonel Quentin. It so happened, however, that this exile proved ultimately advantageous to science, and highly honourable to George Fitzclarence, the present Earl of Munster. On his arrival in Bengal, he was immediately appointed one of the aides-de-camp to the Marquis of Hastings, the governor-general, by whom he was employed as well in all affairs of the cabinet as of the field; particularly in the dispersion of the Pindarries, and in the breaking up of the Mahratta confederacy.

The Marquis having accomplished these great services, deemed it expedient to despatch the intelligence home to the Company, by an overland mission. Major Fitz-Clarence was selected for this purpose; and, on the 8th of December, 1817, before the break of day, he left the camp at Sejapore, in the province of Bundelcund, and, on the third of February, 1818, he arrived at Bombay. Though the route was extremely critical and perilous, being for the greatest part through countries where a marked hostility to Europeans predominated,

the Major, with an insatiate spirit of inquiry, examined every remarkable object that came in his way, regardless of the danger which attended his curiosity. On the seventh of February, the Major sailed from Bombay in one of the Company's ships; and on the twenty-sixth of the following month, he landed at Coseir in the Red Sea, from whence he set out the same day for Khennè on the Nile, in order to proceed down that river to Cairo.

At Khennè he was entertained by a gentleman named Anderson, who, though of British parentage, knew not a word of the English language. After a tedious passage of ten days, the Major reached the house of Mr. Salt at Cairo, where he met with the celebrated adventurer and traveller, Belzoni. In the company of Mr. Salt and Belzoni, Major Fitzclarence made a visit to the pyramids; among which, he entered and minutely explored the famous one of Cephrenes. In his journal, our indefatigable observer gives this account of a sarcophagus of granite, buried in the ground to the level of the floor, and placed due north and south: "The sarcophagus is eight feet long, three feet six inches wide, and two feet three inches deep inside, surrounded by large blocks of granite, placed there in all probability to prevent its removal; but Belzoni had determined upon that measure, though it must be attended with much labour. The lid is placed diagonally across it: Belzoni, however, found in it the bones of a human skeleton, which are probably the bones of King Cephrenes, who is supposed to have built this pyramid. He presented me with three or four pieces, and, on learning it was my intention to deposit them in the British Museum, he added others, making in all seven pieces."

The sequel of this discovery is too laughable to be passed over without notice. We shall therefore, without apology, complete the history of the supposed bones of the king of Egypt, in the words of Mr. Faber, who had long before, with great learning, supported the opinion, that the pyramids were erected in honour of the sacred bull Mneuis, worshipped by the ancient Egyptians as the visible representative of Osiris.

“On the 18th of March, in the year 1818,” says Mr. Faber, “the long-closed pyramid of Cephrenes was opened by the skill and perseverance of Mr. Belzoni. Like the large pyramid, it was found to contain a dark chamber and a stone sarcophagus ; but the sarcophagus, instead of being empty, was occupied by a few bones. These bones, according to the vulgar notion that each pyramid is a literal tomb of a literal Egyptian sovereign, were, naturally enough, supposed by Mr. Belzoni to be human ; and the question was now thought to be determined in favour of the old opinion handed down to us by the Greek writers. Soon after the opening of the pyramid, however, it was entered by Major Fitzclarence, who sacrilegiously brought away with him a portion of the supposed venerable remains of the primeval Cephrenes. So royal a fragment of the mighty dead could befit none save a royal cabinet. The august bone was reverently presented to the Prince Regent ; and the Prince committed the relic of his defunct brother sovereign, big with the fate of jarring systems, to the inspection of Sir Everard Home. Not more fatal to the antique shield of the renowned Dr. Cornelius, was the impious scouring of the cleanly housemaid—a scouring which converted the ærugo-stripped buckler into a sconce—than the inspection of an accomplished English surgeon proved

to the thigh-bone of Cephrenes. The relic turned out to be, not the bone of a *man*, but the bone of a *cow*!" In further illustration of this curious and recondite subject, Mr. Faber remarks :

"It was one of those bestial avatars of Osiris, (to adopt the technical language of the kindred theology of Hindoostan,) that was committed after his death to the dark sepulchral chamber of the pyramid ascribed to Cephrenes. The bone brought home by Major Fitzclarence, and at first mistaken for the thigh-bone of an Egyptian king, was evidently a bone of the sacred bull Mneuis: the sarcophagus, that contained this curious and decisive remnant of the animal's skeleton, was the ship Argo, executed in stone, (by the Greeks denominated the stone ship of Dionusus,) which was at once the ark and the reputed coffin of Osiris; and the pyramid itself, like the pyramid of Babylon, the pyramid of the Mexican Cholula, and the numerous pyramids dedicated to Buddha, was an artificial copy of the mount of the appulse, Ararat.

"The same remarks apply to the larger pyramid of Cheops, the interior of which has long been accessible. There the stone Argo is empty; but when we consider the length of time during which the pyramid has been open, it is not very difficult to account for the disappearance of its contents. In the course of a few years, the Argo of the pyramid opened by Mr. Belzoni will be as empty as its fellow: the example of Major Fitzclarence will soon, no doubt, be followed by succeeding travellers; and the bones of the holy bull will all find their way to the cabinets of Europe."

On the 12th of April, the Major quitted Cairo for Alexandria, where he embarked on board the Tagus

frigate, Captain Dundas, and there, to his great satisfaction, found his brother, Adolphus Fitzclarence, then a lieutenant on board of that ship. The Tagus had been despatched to Alexandria, for the purpose of conveying home the two sons of the Emperor of Morocco, who had been on pilgrimage to Mecca. This occurrence added greatly to the stock of knowledge which the Major had acquired; for, in the suite of the princes was a man of considerable intelligence, and of a most communicative disposition, from whom was obtained much information respecting the internal geography of Africa, particularly on the two interesting objects of inquiry—the course of the Niger, and the site of Timbuctoo. The Major asked this person, whose name was Hadjee Talub, and whose situation, as governor of the princes, entitled him to credit—whether it was practicable for a Frank to pass from Fez to Timbuctoo, and if he thought the Emperor of Morocco would assist the views of any Englishman in reaching that city. He answered with the greatest confidence in the affirmative. Hadjee was further asked, whether, if duly rewarded, he would accompany the Major to Timbuctoo; to which he assented with the utmost readiness, and added, that they could reach that city from Fez in forty-seven days on horseback, and that he would forfeit his life if he did not bring the Major back safely.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, Major Fitzclarence embarked on board a packet, and on the fourteenth of June, 1818, he landed at Falmouth, just in time to congratulate his illustrious parent on his marriage. An advancement to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel followed, and, on the recommendation of his friends, he sent to the press his admirably written and highly valuable “*Journal of a Route across India, through Egypt to England.*”

This elegant volume, which came out, the ensuing year, under the auspices of the Prince Regent, contains not only a variety of descriptive sketches, interesting researches and ingenious disquisitions, but many lively and instructive delineations of remarkable characters.

Among other natives of distinction, with whom the author became acquainted in India, was one who, by his recent visit to this country, has obtained considerable attention. Of this personage, the Major in his journal gives the following account :

“ There has never been, to my knowledge, an instance of any Hindoo of condition or caste being converted to our faith. The only conversion of any kind, if it can be called so, that has come within my observation, was that of a high-caste Bramin, of one of the first families in the country, who is not only perfectly master of the Sanscrit, but has gained a thorough acquaintance with the English language and literature, and has openly declared that the Braminical religion is in its purity a pure deism, and not the gross polytheism into which it has degenerated. I became well acquainted with him, and admire his talents and acquirements. His eloquence in our language is very great, and I am told that he is still more admirable in Arabic and Persian. It is remarkable that he has studied and thoroughly understands the politics of Europe, but more particularly those of England ; and the last time I was in his company, he argued forcibly against a standing army in a free country, and quoted all the arguments brought forward by the members of the opposition. I think he is, in many respects, a most extraordinary person. In the first place, he is a religious reformer, who has, amongst a people more bigoted than those of Europe in the middle ages, dared to think for himself.

His learning is most extensive, as he is not only generally conversant with the best books in English, Arabic, Persian, Sanscrit, Bengalee, and Hindoostanee, but has even studied rhetoric in Arabic and English, and quotes Locke and Bacon on all occasions. From the view he has thus necessarily taken of the religions, manners, and customs of so many nations, and from his having observed the number of different modes of addressing and worshipping the Supreme Being, he naturally turned to his own faith with an unprejudiced mind, found it perverted from the religion of the Vedas to a gross idolatry, and was not afraid, though aware of the consequences, to publish to the world, in Bengalee and English, his feelings and opinions on the subject. Of course he was fully prepared to meet the host of interested enemies, who, from sordid motives, wished to keep the lower classes in the state of the darkest ignorance. I have understood that his family have quitted him, that he has been declared to have lost caste, and is, for the present, as all religious reformers must be for a time, a mark to be scoffed at. To a man of his sentiments and rank, this loss of caste must be peculiarly painful: but at Calcutta he associates with the English. He is, however, cut off from all familiar and domestic intercourse, indeed from all communication of any kind with his relations and former friends. His name is Ram Mohun Roy. He is particularly handsome, not of a very dark complexion, of a fine person, and most courtly manners. He professes to have no objection to eat and live as we do; but refrains from it, in order not to expose himself to the imputation of having changed his religion for the good things of this world. He will sit at table with us while the meat is on it, which no other Bramin will do."

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1820.

HERE it is proper to bring under review some historical particulars of other branches of the Royal Family at this important period.

On the meeting of the new parliament in January 1819, Lord Liverpool introduced a bill for placing the custody of the King in the hands of the Duke of York, subject, as in the case of the Queen, to the advice of a council. To this appointment, no objection was or could be made; but when it was proposed that his Royal Highness should have a grant of ten thousand pounds a year as long as he held this important charge, a violent opposition arose, which was reverberated from the people out of doors in language of the most inflammatory tendency. Notwithstanding this, the proposition was carried through the Commons, and received the royal assent.

The Duke of York had scarcely entered upon his office, when he experienced in the discharge of it a remarkable accident. While in attendance upon his Majesty at Windsor, as the Duke was in the act of opening a door, his foot slipped, and, in the fall, he broke his right arm above the elbow. The fracture was set immediately by the surgeon of the household, and, in a short time, his Royal Highness recovered.

On the 25th of April, the Duke and Duchess of Kent arrived in England from Germany, and took up their

residence at the palace of Kensington ; where, on the 24th of May, her Royal Highness gave birth to a princess. The christening was solemnized with splendid ceremony, on Thursday, the 24th of June. The royal gold font was removed from the Tower to Kensington, and fitted up in the grand saloon, with crimson velvet coverings from the Chapel Royal. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with the assistance of the Bishop of London. The infant princess was named Alexandrina Victoria. The sponsors were the Prince Regent ; the Emperor Alexander, represented by the Duke of York ; the Queen Dowager of Wurtemberg, represented by the Princess Augusta ; and the Duchess dowager of Cobourg, represented by the Duchess of Gloucester. The Prince Regent, and nearly all the members of the Royal Family, were present, either during the ceremony, or at the dinner given by the Duke of Kent in the evening.

Another addition to the royal lineage took place at this period, in the birth of Prince George, son of the Duke of Cumberland ; which event occurred on the 27th of May at Berlin.

But while fresh shoots were thus budding forth to perpetuate an illustrious dynasty, death was preparing new breaches in the family.

After the delivery of the Duchess of Kent, her health, and that of the royal infant, rendered, in the judgment of the physicians, a change of scene and climate necessary. Sidmouth, on the south coast of Devonshire, was pitched upon ; and thither the Duke with his family repaired in the course of the summer. The effects were such as had been anticipated ; the Duchess recovered rapidly, and the child improved in an equal degree. The

Duke himself was delighted with the country, and still more so on account of the benefit its salubrious atmosphere had produced on the dearest objects of his affections.

But amidst this felicity, and while enjoying a high and deserved share of popularity, this excellent prince was seized with a fever, the consequence of neglecting to take off his wet boots, on returning home after a long walk in the depth of winter. The complaint began with a shivering, which soon exhibited symptoms of inflammation of the lungs. The next morning his Royal Highness was reported to be in imminent danger; but about the middle of the day, he appeared somewhat better, after having had a little refreshing sleep. Towards evening, however, the alarming symptoms returned with increased violence, and continued so during the whole of the night, and the day following. On Saturday morning there appeared a remission of suffering; but this was only the fearful prelude to the fatal stroke, which deprived the nation of one of its best hopes, on Sunday, January the 23d, 1820.

The royal Duke bore his illness and afflictions with the greatest composure and resignation. His amiable consort was most indefatigable in her attentions, and performed all the offices of a nurse with the most tender and affectionate anxiety. She did not even take off her clothes for five successive nights; and all the medicines were ministered with her own hand.

Thus died Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, in the fifty-third year of his age, having been born November the second, 1767. He was first educated under Dr. John Fisher, late Bishop of Salisbury, who was afterwards the tutor of the Princess Charlotte; but at the age of seventeen, his Royal Highness was sent to Hanover with

General Budé, a native of Switzerland, and high in the estimation of George the Third. While in Germany, he was subjected to all the strictness of the Prussian discipline : and of its severity, as well as of his own conformity to military rules, he used to relate an anecdote, which we shall give in his own words. " Being placed as a cadet at Hanover, the regiment on duty was discharged in the usual form ; but the general commanding, happened to forget to dismiss me, which was always accompanied with a distinct and peculiar ceremony. On this, I continued, in a very uneasy position, and was actually forgotten for four hours, when at length the commanding officer rode up, and apologized. I should have remained, but for this, at my post, until I had fainted with fatigue."

This rigid tuition had a bad effect upon the royal Duke, who became, in consequence, so severe a disciplinarian himself, that when he obtained the command over British soldiers, his conduct made him enemies, and produced mutiny oftener than once. From Hanover, Prince Edward was removed to Geneva ; and there remained, to complete his education, till the month of January, 1790, when he returned to England without parental permission, and, in consequence, was sent off to Gibraltar. His stay there was short ; for, in 1791, he was ordered to Canada, from whence, on the breaking out of the war, he proceeded to the West Indies to join Sir Charles Grey, under whom he displayed great gallantry, in the attack on St. Lucie, and also in the capture of Guadaloupe and Martinique. At the close of the campaign in 1794, the Prince returned to British America, and served as a major-general at Halifax till 1798, when, in consequence of a fall from his horse, he left

that station for England. In April following, having attained his thirty-second year, he was created Duke of Kent ; to support which dignity, the annual allowance of £12,000 was appropriated by parliament. About the same time, he was promoted to the rank of General of the army, and appointed commander-in-chief in North America, to which destination he proceeded in July ; but ill health again soon obliged him to return, and he arrived in England in the autumn of 1800. In May, 1802, the Duke went to Gibraltar, as governor of that important fortress ; but this proved an untoward event, and, after the lapse of a few months, his Royal Highness was recalled, never more to be re-instated in actual service. And here historical truth requires the completion of the narrative, unpleasant as it may be in some points.

One of the warmest friends and admirers of the Duke, speaking of his Royal Highness at this period, says, "Being now possessed of the supreme command, he determined to introduce all the rigour of the German tactics. A striking example of military obedience in his own person, he required the most complete subordination from all around him. Rising before the sun—abhorring the excesses of the table—sober almost to a fault—punctual in the discharge of all his duties, however numerous—he exacted nothing from others, but what he himself was ready to comply with. Yet it was found utterly impossible for any body of men, particularly of soldiers, to imitate the abstemiousness, the regularity, and the austere habits, of the new governor.

"On the continent, he had imbibed a taste for the most correct uniformity in the dress, accoutrements, and equipments of the soldiery ; and, while the hair was to be cut according to a certain precise standard, the gar-

garrison rather felt disgusted by additional parades and daily reviews. But, on the other hand, it should be recollected, that the inhabitants of the Rock had been loud in their complaints of military license; that the troops were slovenly and insubordinate; and that, as the means of intoxication were so easy, its effects became every where visible. To correct this evil, his Royal Highness, notwithstanding the loss accruing to himself, determined to shut up many of the wine-houses, to restrain the soldiers within the barracks, and to adopt such a system of inspection, as should preclude inebriety and insubordination. These regulations, however necessary, were not attended with the salutary effects that might have been expected. At the end of the year, a mutinous conspiracy, which had the assassination of the governor for its object, was formed; but providentially a timely discovery took place, and order was restored. Such a spirit, however, had been raised in the garrison, that it was deemed prudent to recall the Duke, who returned in May, 1803; and, though he continued to hold the office till his death, he never again visited the Rock."

It is barely just to observe, that the Duke of Kent, considering the arduous and various services through which he passed, was treated by successive administrations with strange neglect, and even cruelty. Why he alone should have been kept from the peerage beyond the accustomed age, cannot easily be accounted for, any more than his long, and apparently penal absence from his native land. Certain it is, however, that the Duke of Kent, with merits fully equal to any of his brothers, was less favoured than either of his seniors or juniors. His income at all times was extremely confined; in consequence of which, he was reduced to many painful

embarrassments, and became, without being chargeable with profligacy, heavily involved in debt, which perplexed him to such a degree, that he made over his income to a committee, for the purpose of clearing off his encumbrances, being resolved to circumscribe his expenditure within very narrow limits.

In pursuance of this plan of economy, he left England in 1816, and settled at Brussels; where he lived in great privacy, and at a small expense. From thence he made excursions into Germany, to visit his royal relatives; and it was during one of these, that he first saw and admired the Princess Victoria-Maria-Louisa, youngest daughter of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg, and sister of Prince Leopold. She was born in 1786, and, in her sixteenth year, became the consort of the hereditary Prince of Leiningen; a man old enough to be her father, being, at the time of his marriage, forty-five years of age. He, however, did not live long; and at his death appointed his widow regent of the principality, during the minority of his son and heir. When the death of the Princess Charlotte made it necessary for the Duke of Kent to think seriously of marriage, he had not long to seek an object worthy of his hand. With the entire approbation of both families, his Royal Highness and the Princess of Leiningen were united at Cobourg, May the twenty-ninth, 1818.

After complying with the condition required by the royal marriage act, the Duke and Duchess of Kent returned to the Continent, and settled at Amorbach, which her Royal Highness, as guardian of her son, had, during her widowhood, occupied as her residence. But when there appeared the promise that this union would give an heir to the British throne, the Duke very pro-

perly, respecting the attachment of the people to native-born princes, resolved to bring over his royal consort to Kensington, that the child which she bore might draw its first breath in England. His patriotic wish was thus far gratified; but Providence permitted him not to rear the tender blossom he had raised, and to protect her from the storms and blights of a ruthless and changing world.

The Duke of Kent, in person, bore a very striking resemblance to his father, when the King was in his meridian. There was also a great similarity between them in other respects; particularly in their habits of life, which were uniform and unvaried. The Duke, like his father, was an early riser; and, to insure punctuality in this object, he kept a servant, whose business it was, in the winter, to light the fire at a precise hour, for which purpose he was not allowed to go to bed till he had discharged that office. Precisely at six o'clock, a cup of coffee was brought to his Royal Highness by one attendant, and the tray removed by another. In the course of the morning, all the chief servants made their appearance in turn; and a bill of the expenses of the preceding day was produced by the house-steward, whose statement included the minutest articles, and all of them distinctly classed.

According to the late Mr. George Hardinge, one of the Welch judges, and a frequent visitor of the Duke, a hair-dresser for all the livery servants constituted one of the efficient characters on the establishment: the result was, that, in this complicated machine of souls and bodies, the genius of attention, of cleanliness, and of smart appearance, was the order of the day. Among other peculiarities, the Duke had his bells enumerated,

to preserve order and regularity of attendance. Five separate pulls were placed in a recess in the parlour next Kensington Gardens, each intended to summon a particular domestic ; and the expense of these fittings alone, it is said, cost three hundred pounds. It is a fact worth mentioning, that the late Mr. Canning adopted the Duke's plan in his office at the Treasury, where, however, it was more necessary. The palace at Kensington, in the Duke's time, abounded with musical clocks ; two of which chimed every quarter of an hour, and that not very agreeably to those who were engaged in business or conversation. Notwithstanding the narrow circumstances of his Royal Highness, his hand was always open to the relief of the distressed ; and on every occasion of public charity, he came forward with alacrity, to aid the cause by his subscription and eloquence.

The mortal remains of this friend of human kind, and ornament of the royal line, lay in state for a short time at Sidmouth ; and, on the 12th of February, were committed to the family vault in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

CHAPTER VIII.

A.D. 1820.

THE death of the Duke of Kent was speedily followed by that of his venerable parent. The first signs of decay in the stamina of his Majesty's excellent constitution, appeared at the setting in of the winter; when, after suffering much from severe cold, he was attacked by a slight species of diarrhœa; which, however, yielded to astringent and anodyne medicines, and all apprehensions with respect to it ceased. On the first of January a bulletin was issued, stating that his Majesty's disorder had undergone no sensible alteration; that, though his bodily health had partaken of some of the infirmities of age, it had been generally good during the last month.

After the lapse of several days from this public announcement, the symptoms of a change occasioned peculiar anxiety and alarm. The disorder returned with greater violence, the physicians were in constant attendance, and the lords in waiting remained longer than usual. The royal patient, in the early access of this second attack, rejected animal food; and though the most nourishing diet was prepared for him, every thing failed to sustain or recruit exhausted nature. He was, in consequence, reduced to a skeleton; his blood was become torpid; and though artificial means were employed to raise the temperature of the apartments, the King continued to manifest increasing suffering from

cold. It was not, however, till within two days of his dissolution, that he kept his bed entirely, though for some time past he had not risen at his accustomed early hour.

The symptoms of approaching death were now so certain and rapid, that Sir Henry Halford came express to town, and had an immediate audience of the Duke of York; who, in consequence, set off for Windsor without a moment's delay. At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, January the 29th, the physicians felt assured that the crisis was near, and that this day must terminate the scene. As the evening advanced, his Majesty became gradually weaker, till nature was quite exhausted, and at half past eight o'clock he breathed his last, without a struggle, in the eighty-second year of his age, and the sixtieth of his reign.

The decay, though rapid, was unaccompanied with any violent changes; so that none of the physical excitement occurred, which, in some cases of mental derangement, restores to sufferers, in their last moments, a transient use of understanding, a flickering of light, which throws horror on the surrounding objects, and inbitters the agonies of death. Here, on the contrary, all was tranquil, and awfully serene. The venerable monarch was spared this last pang: there was no returning gleam of reason, to torture him with the sense, either of what he had lost, or of what he was about to lose for ever. If he had not the melancholy satisfaction of witnessing the presence of his favourite and affectionate son, he was saved from the anguish of missing the beloved and aged partner of his throne, of his darling grandchild, and of the estimable Prince Edward, whose virtues so nearly resembled his own.

The world had been, to George the Third, a blank for the space of ten years ; and upon those who remembered him in his active life, his appearance in solitude must have had an effect not unlike that produced by contemplating a temple no longer devoted to its sacred uses, but left to desolation and darkness.

It was well observed by an anonymous writer in one of the daily prints, that "The deceased King retained his faculties only to witness the dawn of that splendour which his consistent and intrepid policy towards foreign powers had prepared for the arms of England. He was not rewarded for the virtues of a long life, and the anxieties of a restless and stormy reign, by beholding those proofs of his own wisdom which were destined to immortalize his memory. The triumphs of Wellington were rich in blossom, but had not yet borne their appropriate fruits. The seeds of Buonaparte's downfall, on another side, were already sown, in his preparations for an attack upon the Russian empire, and in his intolerable tyranny over the central nations of Europe. The ripening of that abundant harvest also was withheld by Providence from the observation of our afflicted sovereign. Yet was he saved from many griefs by the same hand which rendered him unconscious of those signal benefits. An American war was approaching, when his malady seized him : he thus escaped the mortification of knowing with what imbecility his service was carried on, and by how improvident and unwise a peace that national conflict was concluded. His Majesty was further spared the unhappiness of knowing what unseemly agitations have troubled our internal tranquillity—what privations have distressed the labouring classes of his subjects—and what alarming encroach-

ments on British liberty have impaired the bulwarks of that noble constitution, which, from the earliest periods of his government, commanded his reverence and forbearance:—still more fortunately, he did not live to feel the pangs of widowhood, after fifty-seven years of happy wedlock—nor to weep over two generations of his children mouldering in the untimely tomb.

“The good King possessed that accidental felicity, which is considered essential to the completeness of every human reputation. He had not merely great and useful qualities, but they were qualities adapted to the position in which he was placed, called for by the period during which he acted, and congenial to the character of the nation over which he ruled. Henry the Fourth, of France, would be to mankind at large a far more dazzling and captivating monarch; but he would not have so well suited the meridian of the people of England, nor the exigencies of the present age. The religion of Henry was not sufficiently serious; his morals were not austere enough to rebuke and confound the licentious infidel—the living pestilence of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The sober dignity of the English court, while George the Third threw around it the mantle of his domestic affections and well-regulated life, represented truly the characteristic virtues of this grave and manly nation, and powerfully encouraged and sustained them. He did not, like some of his predecessors since the Revolution, imprison one queen, nor neglect another, nor lavish public honours on foreign prostitutes, nor offend the matron purity of English wives and mothers, by the dull indecency of monstrous and tasteless vice. We mean George the Third no dishonour, we do him none, by saying, that the familiar name of **JOHN BULL**

was applicable specifically to the whole constitution of his mind and habits. He was an Englishman all over—but an Englishman worthy to be at the head of a nation of English. There are none of our kings, to whom, in respect of masculine force and moral excellence, he may not be advantageously compared :

Micat inter omnes

Julium sidus.

It was the glory of the lamented monarch, to shun the weak example of those who preceded him ; but it will, we trust, be the pride of his successors to follow the just example he has left.”

Adequate justice has not been done to the abilities of George the Third. His conversation in public was light and superficial ; but he often had a purpose in such dialogue, and often indulged in it to relieve himself from the weight of more serious thoughts. The King taking exercise or amusement, and the King in the cabinet, were two different persons. In the discussion of public concerns, he was exceedingly acute, and his habitual application to business enabled him to refer with ease to the bearings of every subject. All his ministers have borne willing testimony to his penetration, candour, and condescension, whenever called upon to deliberate matters of state in the closet or at the council board. He never, like his immediate predecessor, threw himself into a passion, when a difference of opinion occurred between him and the cabinet. Though firm in what he conceived to be right, his Majesty always argued the question with calmness, and heard, without betraying the least impatience, whatever others had to say on the opposite side. He passed over nothing, that was submitted to his consideration, with

indifference or perfunctory haste. Every paper that came under his inspection contained marks of his observation; and the notes which he almost invariably subjoined, or wrote in the margin, exhibited at once his attention and judgment. The following is only one instance, out of many that might be produced.

At the beginning of 1787, a marine, named Edward Biddoe, was tried on board the Carnatic at Portsmouth, for striking a sergeant of the corps while the latter was endeavouring to put an end to a fray. A court-martial, of which Captain Peregrine Bertie was president, was held, and the marine was found guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. The proceedings were, of course, laid before the King by Earl Howe, who received from his Majesty the following note.

“ QUEEN’S HOUSE, Jan. 25, 1788.

“ 10 min. past 7. p. m.

“ So very heinous an offence, as the striking a superior, is so total a subversion of all military discipline, that I should not have thought myself entitled to grant the mercy the court-martial have solicited for, had I not maturely read over the minutes of the court-martial; and I think it possible the prisoner may not, in the heat of dispute with another marine, and the darkness of the place, have instantly known the sergeant who interposed: besides, the evidences seem to cast a strong impression of the sergeant being none of the best, and therefore may not have conducted himself as he ought. I leave it to the discretion of Lord Howe, whether any punishment less severe can be inflicted; or whether, if it cannot, he may not be pardoned, with some assurance that it is a determination, in future, not to remit the sentence, if a superior is struck by an inferior.

“ G. R.”

To this note, the King subjoined the following postscript, which shews how carefully he weighed and examined all cases submitted to his decision.

“When we pass suddenly from the broad light into a region of darkness, the power of discernment is not to be depended upon—I am not aware whether this can apply to the case in question, but I rather think it will,”

The King was perfectly correct. The dispute occurred in the mess-room after dark, and therefore it was not easy to determine from whom, in the confusion, the blow came, or for whom it was intended. The marine was pardoned of course.

It has been said, that the King was not a great reader; and, indeed, that he scarcely ever took up a book. This is a gross mistake; for though he was not a studious man, he had always a taste for literature; and his reading was both extensive and judicious, as his recorded conversations with Johnson and Beattie sufficiently prove. When Adams, the optician and mathematical instrument maker, presented his “Treatise on the Use of the Globes” to the King, who had given him permission to bring the volume out under the royal sanction, his Majesty looked over the dedication, and said, “This is not your writing.” “No, Sire,” replied Adams, “it was composed for me by Dr. Johnson.” “I thought so,” answered the King; “it is excellent—and the better for being void of flattery, which I hate.”

When Johnson himself had an interview with the King in the royal library, his Majesty’s acquaintance with English history appeared, in his observations upon Lord Lyttleton’s *Life of Henry the Second*, which had been just published. A further instance of his tact and taste on literary subjects was given, in his desiring the

great biographer to write the *Life of Spenser*; which, though the Doctor promised, he failed to execute.

George the Third has been charged with obstinacy. The following circumstance shews how ready he was to retract a hasty judgment, and to make amends for any warm expression. His Majesty one day observed to Colonel Price, that he had an intention to have a particular tree cut down, and asked, whether it did not, in his opinion, mar the prospect. The Colonel dissented. "Ay," replied the King, "that's your way; you continually contradict me." "If your Majesty," said the Colonel, "will not condescend to listen to the honest sentiments of your servants, you can never hear the truth."—After a short pause, the King kindly laid his hand on the Colonel's shoulder, and said, "You are right, Price; the tree shall stand."

The temperance of the King was almost proverbial. He rose both in summer and winter before six o'clock. He took a slight breakfast at eight, and dined off a plain joint, usually mutton, at one. He retired early to rest, after passing the evening with his family, sometimes at cards, but generally amused with music, of which he was very fond, and in the knowledge of which he evinced considerable taste. Handel was his favourite author; and it is recorded, that when the great composer was once playing at a private party of the royal family, observing the fixed attention of Prince George, then very young, he placed his hand upon his head, and said, "Ay, this is the boy that will make my music live when I am dead."

Agricultural pursuits may be justly ranked among the amusements of the King; and thus, as Burke justly observed, he was a patriot in every respect, private and

public. Habitual piety was always the prominent feature of his exemplary character. Those who witnessed him at his morning devotions in the private chapel at Windsor, could never forget the fervour of his responses during the service. This constant sense of religion, doubtless contributed to the invariable firmness and serenity of his mind. When one of the young princes was hourly expected to die, the King was sitting, on a Sunday evening, reading to his family. An attendant came to announce the tidings of the child's death. The King exchanged a look with him, signifying that he understood his commission, and then went on with his reading till the sermon was finished. Barrow, among the old theologians, was the most esteemed by his Majesty; and in the copy of that author's works, belonging to the royal library, are many marks, divisions, and emendations, in the King's hand-writing.

The piety of the King was not of a bigoted cast; nor did he affect the character of an ascetic. It was the religion of the heart, and it shone forth in all the actions of his life. Though firmly attached to the established church, for which, and the constitution, he would have laid down his life, he was no less a friend to toleration, consistent with the security of the state.

The day of the funeral was remarkable; being the 15th of February, the first of Lent, or Ash-Wednesday—and it was indeed a day, if not of fasting, yet of general mourning. The Duke of York followed the corpse as chief-mourner; and after him came, in heraldic order, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, Prince Leopold, and the Duke of Gloucester.

BOOK THE FIFTH.

CHAPTER I.

A.D. 1820.

SCARCELY had the ceremony of proclaiming GEORGE THE FOURTH taken place, when a diabolical conspiracy was discovered, and defeated, having for its object the overthrow of the government. On Wednesday, the twenty-third of February, in consequence of private information that an attempt was about to be made to destroy the cabinet ministers while assembled at the Earl of Harrowby's house in Mansfield-street, the chief magistrate of Bow-street, with a party of the patrol, proceeded, about eight o'clock in the evening, to Cato-street in the Edgeware Road, where the desperadoes were already assembled in a kind of loft over some stables. The only approach to this pandemonium was by a narrow ladder. Ruthven, one of the officers, led the way, and was followed by others. On the door being opened, about thirty men were seen, either armed, or employed in arming themselves, and preparing their weapons. In a moment all was confusion; and when the patrol rushed forward, one of them, named Smithers, was stabbed to the heart. While this was doing, the lights were extinguished, and a fearful conflict ensued.

At this moment, Captain Frederick Fitzclarence, with a detachment of thirty of the Coldstream guards, arrived from the Portman-street barracks. On coming into the neighbourhood of Cato-street, he commanded the soldiers to fix bayonets, and every man to be silent. Almost immediately afterwards, they heard the report of a pistol; upon which they were instantly ordered to advance in double-quick time towards the spot whence the sound proceeded. On reaching the stable, a man darted out, but in the act of making off, he was prevented. Finding his retreat intercepted, he pointed a pistol at Captain Fitzclarence, when Sergeant Legge broke his aim by knocking the pistol out of his hand, at the instant of its discharging. The sergeant was wounded in the right arm, but the ruffian was secured. The captain then directed the men to follow him into the stable; but their entrance was opposed by a black, who aimed a blow at the commanding officer with a cutlass, which one of the soldiers warded off with his musket. The fellow then exclaimed, "Let us kill all the red coats; we may as well die now as at any other time." He also was secured, and they then all entered the stable.

Captain Fitzclarence being first, was attacked by another of the gang, who pointed at him a pistol, which flashed in the pan; upon which the soldiers took him likewise, when he said, "Don't kill me, and I'll tell you all about it." The soldiers then mounted the loft, where they found the body of the murdered officer, and another man lying near him. The latter, who was one of the gang, on being ordered to rise, exclaimed, "I hope you'll make a difference between the innocent and the guilty. Don't hurt me, and I'll tell you how it happened." Five more were then secured; one of them

declared he was led into it that afternoon, and that he was innocent. While the soldiers were engaged below, Mr., now Sir Richard Birnie, was no less active above, encouraging his officers to do their duty; but unfortunately, the darkness favoured the escape of many of the wretches, and the dreadful skirmish ended with the capture of only nine of them. These were instantly handcuffed, and conveyed in hackney-coaches to Bow-street under a strong military escort. The office was crowded with soldiers and officers bringing in arms and ammunition of various kinds, that had been taken; blunderbusses, muskets, pistols, swords, cartouch-boxes, ball-cartridges, gunpowder, and a bundle of stilettoes of singular construction. These weapons were about a foot and a half long, triangular in form, two of the sides being concave, and the other flat, the handle ending in a screw, as if to fit into a socket. Several staves to receive these formidable instruments were also discovered.

The depositions of the civil officers, and several of the soldiers, having been taken, the prisoners were committed for further examination. From the evidence it appeared, that Captain Fitzclarence seized and secured one or two of the prisoners with his own hand; and he was not only very much bruised, but his uniform was almost torn in pieces.

Arthur Thistlewood, the principal of this gang, effected his escape that night; but, in consequence of a reward of one thousand pounds being offered for his apprehension, he was taken the next day by a party of the police office, at an obscure house in Moorfields. In the course of the same day, several other arrests took place, the principal of which was that of a man named Brunt,

who was stated to be second in command to Thistlewood. At his lodgings in Gray's-Inn Lane were found a vast quantity of hand-grenades, charged with gun-powder and other combustibles, the explosion of which must have produced horrible destruction. All the prisoners were committed to the Tower, and, on the 17th of April, their trials came on at the Old Bailey; when three were admitted as evidences for the crown, six were allowed to plead guilty, and Thistlewood, with four of the most desperate, received judgment of death, which was carried into execution on Monday, the 29th of that month. It is melancholy to relate, that the only one of these miserable culprits who manifested any compunction, or sense of religion, on the scaffold, was the man of colour, who appeared to be a true penitent.

The assassination of the Duke of Berri at Paris by a political fanatic, and the infernal attempt to destroy the widowed duchess, with the child of which she was pregnant, were remarkable coincidences, as happening about the same time with the conspiracy; for, though no connexion subsisted between these murderous transactions, both the one and the other certainly sprang out of the same revolutionary principles.

But our attention is now unequivocally summoned to a state of things, the very mention of which brings up a train of reflections painful in the remembrance.

Previous to the dissolution of parliament, consequent on the demise of the crown, motions were made in the House of Commons on the 21st of February, for supplies to meet the exigences of the service during the current year. This ordinary proceeding, which at other times would have passed without observation, proved the prelude to a storm. When the Speaker was about

to leave the chair, Mr. Hume wished to know what provision was intended to be made for the Queen.

Lord Castlereagh declined answering the question, until the subject should come regularly before parliament. Upon this, Mr. Tierney said, that after what had taken place, it was time to speak out openly. An order in council had been issued, he observed, for omitting all mention of the Queen in the church service. This implied some ground of suspicion. Rumours were afloat, which, if true, proved the Queen unworthy to sit on the British throne. "But," said Mr. Tierney, "these might be mere idle calumny; and in that case, parliament was bound to maintain the Queen in her rights and privileges."

Mr. Brougham spoke as if all this was new to his ears; and he affected to differ from his honourable friend, because he was wholly unacquainted with any grounds of suspicion. He was totally ignorant, he said, of any inquiries that had been instituted; he listened not to their reported results; nor would he suffer his mind to receive any sinister impressions. But if a charge should ever be brought forward, he would deal with it as became an honest member of parliament; and he would endeavour to do justice between the parties most concerned. Until that moment, big with importance, big with unspeakable importance to the parties—with an importance, of which those who were ignorant of the case could form no conception—until that moment arrived, his lips should be sealed.

In all this, impartial men saw the ingenuity of political tacticians. A general election was at hand, and the agitation of the Queen's case, in the expiring stage of the old parliament, was well calculated, though prema-



HENRY BROUGHAM, BARON BROUGHAM & VAUX.

Brougham

ture in itself, to answer the purposes of party, by making a powerful impression upon the public mind throughout the empire.

On the 27th of April, the first parliament of George the Fourth assembled, when the King, in his speech from the throne, expressed the satisfaction he felt at the improved state of the country, by the prompt measures that had been pursued for the suppression of sedition and insurrection. The customary addresses were carried without opposition or remark, in both houses; and, as far as that went, there was every appearance of tranquillity. So confident, indeed, were the King and his ministers in the stability of order and peace, that preparations on a splendid scale for the coronation were made, and the court of claims was established.

Things, however, soon took another turn: the rumour of the Queen's approach put an end to the works; and the day of the spectacle, which had been fixed for the first of August, the anniversary of the accession of the Brunswick line to the British throne, was now left undetermined, to wait the issue of coming events. Meanwhile, a negotiation was privately carried on with Mr. Brougham, the legal adviser of the Queen; and terms were offered, which, though that gentleman had not direct authority to accept, certainly met with his approbation. But Caroline had made up her mind to cross the Alps, never to return to Italy again. On Thursday, the first of June, she arrived at St. Omer, near which place she was met by Alderman Wood, who at this time possessed a greater share of her confidence than her elder and more tried friends. From St. Omer she wrote three letters; one to the Earl of Liverpool, demand-

ing a palace to be instantly fitted up for her reception; another to Lord Melville, ordering him, as first lord of the admiralty, to send over to Calais a royal yacht, for her accommodation, and conveyance to Dover; and the third to the Duke of York, full of angry remonstrance and vindictive denunciation.

On the evening of Saturday, Mr. Brougham and Lord Hutchinson arrived at St. Omer; the former on behalf of the Queen, and the latter commissioned by the Government. Mr. Brougham, of course, had his audience first, and, after a few complimentary phrases, he announced to the Queen, that Lord Hutchinson, who had formerly been her warm friend, and was now in the confidence of the King, had come, in the spirit of sincere regard for both, to make some proposals in his Majesty's name; and such as it was hoped would prove satisfactory. When, however, the terms were stated, and the condition explained, that the Queen, in consideration of an annuity of fifty thousand pounds, should remain out of England, and relinquish the regal title; she indignantly spurned the proposals, and at once resolved to brave all consequences.

In this, she unquestionably did not follow the counsel of Mr. Brougham, who, though he still adhered to her interests, wished to have continued the negotiation at St. Omer, rather than in the English metropolis; where, he well knew, the difficulties would so increase, as to render a pacific arrangement impossible. At this time, the Queen was very far from being pleased with her legal friend, whose prudential counsels, she thought, savoured too much of an inclination to gratify the Government at her expense. The circumstance of his embarking in the same vessel with the King's agent, travelling in the

same vehicle, sleeping at the same inns, and eating at the same table with a nobleman charged with a mission which the Queen considered rather in a hostile than a friendly light, excited some emotions of resentment and jealousy in her mind. Under the impression thus produced, and at the instigation of other persons, who were ill qualified to advise or to act in such a case, this extraordinary woman, immediately on the rupture of the negociation, left St. Omer for Calais, and so suddenly, that Mr. Brougham had no time to follow her to the coach; and, indeed, scarcely knew that she was gone, till, on looking out of the window, he saw the carriage drive away from the door. It was said, that this abrupt departure arose from an apprehension of personal danger to the Queen, while she remained in France; and where, in all her progress, she certainly had been treated with marked disrespect. But even admitting the existence of any ground for such fear on the part of the royal stranger, in a country then at peace with England, there could be no reason for her quitting Mr. Brougham in a manner that implied, as strongly as action could express, a feeling of displeasure.

Immediately on reaching Calais, the Queen went on board the packet, and there passed the night, being, as it would seem, afraid to trust herself in the hotel, lest the French authorities should interfere, and impede her embarkation. At seven the next morning, the packet got under weigh; and, in the afternoon, the Queen landed at Dover, from whence she proceeded without delay to Canterbury, where she slept that night, and on Tuesday evening made her joyous entry into the metropolis.

The history of the proceedings that ensued cannot

here be detailed, and will scarcely admit of abridgment. After several ineffectual attempts to bring about a satisfactory settlement, for the preservation of the public peace, and the prevention of disclosures injurious to the national character; the Government was driven to the necessity of bringing the whole case under judicial investigation. On the fifth of July, the Earl of Liverpool brought into the House of Lords a Bill of Pains and Penalties against the Queen, charging her with adulterous practices at various times and places, with a menial servant, upon whom she conferred a pretended order of knighthood, without any lawful authority for so doing. The die therefore was now cast; the parties were at issue; and on the 17th of August, the Lords assembled pursuant to a call of the house, when the Lord Chancellor stated, that he had received a letter from the Duke of Sussex, in which his Royal Highness begged leave to submit to their lordships, whether, on account of the ties of consanguinity existing between him and the parties intimately connected with the bill, it would not be proper to permit him to be absent upon this occasion. The application was acceded to of course, though, at the same time, there was not a man, in or out of that house, who thought it worthy of respect; since the royal personage might have attended, and ought, unquestionably, as a peer of parliament, to have attended all the proceedings, without entering into the inquiry. So, at least, thought the Duke of York, who rose and said, that if any person, on a variety of grounds, had stronger claims than another to request leave of absence upon this occasion, he was that individual. Notwithstanding this, his Royal Highness observed, he would not suffer any private feelings to

deter him from doing his duty, however painful it might prove.

The Duke of Clarence adopted the same course, and attended every day during the proceedings. For this, both of the royal personages incurred no little share of the public abuse; and they were even held up as objects of ridicule and contempt at the bar of the House of Lords, by the two leading advocates of the illustrious defendant. The Duke of York, though he took no part in the business, had his character pulled to pieces, in a direct reference to the inquiry that had been instituted into his conduct, eleven years before, in the House of Commons. What that had to do with this investigation, it was neither easy to discover nor to surmise; but as the allusion was calculated to make an impression upon the auditory, it was laid hold of with eagerness, and applied against the royal personage with all the sarcastic force of inventive genius, and expatiated upon with malignant comments by the hirelings of the daily press.

The Duke of Clarence fared still worse than his brother; for, having thought proper to put questions to some of the naval witnesses, he was assailed in language which even the license of the bar could not justify. The most scandalous imputations were thrown out upon his Royal Highness, as having taken part in a foul conspiracy for the ruin of his innocent relative, of whom he had formerly spoken in terms of the warmest affection and admiration. This supposed change from friendship to enmity was ascribed to the worst of all motives, that of a selfish compliance with the will and wish of the Sovereign. The calumniators even went further, and denounced the Duke of Clarence with having industriously sought out evidence abroad, long before the trial, for

the purpose of being used against his cousin and sister-in-law, in case it should ever be needed.

False and improbable as the accusation was, it received credence from the willing multitude, who are always disposed to believe whatever tends to disparage the reputation of such of their superiors as, from conscientious principles, refuse to be carried away by popular clamour. Why either of the royal Dukes should be debarred the common right of their order as peers, in any case, or why they should be censured for attending a cause involving the honour of their Family, and that of the nation, (setting their individual interests, as princes of the blood, aside,) are questions which it would be a waste of words to argue. In defiance, however, of every principle of justice and every rule of decency, the two illustrious personages, who thought themselves bound in duty to be present in the House of Lords throughout these unpleasant proceedings, were put upon their trial at the bar of the public press, without being allowed the means of defence. It was much to be regretted that the confidential advisers of the Queen, and those who called themselves her select friends, should have gained such an ascendancy over their client, as to make her the instrument of wounding the feelings of nearly the whole of her relations, male and female. There was, however, hardly one of the answers which she returned to the numerous addresses presented to her, that did not contain language of the most inflammatory nature against the Government, and invidious reflections upon the Family to whom she was allied.

To a mob of sailors, the Queen delivered a long and laboured string of pointed antitheses, so ingeniously contrived, as to prove at once complimentary and viru-

lent; flattering to the profession in general, and vituperative of individuals. This curious composition is pretty well understood to have been the production of Dr. Parr, and it certainly bears all the characteristics of his affected style. Of this declamatory tirade, the following is a specimen :

“ A British seaman is another name for downright sincerity, and plain-spoken truth. A British seaman always says what he thinks, and is what he seems. A British seaman never deserts his flag, and never abandons his companion in distress. A British seaman is generous to his enemy, but he is never faithless to his friend. His heart is not fickle and inconstant like the element on which he moves, or the wind which fills the sails of his ship. The word of a British seaman is as sure as his bond. His veracity is incorruptible. A British sailor is generous to excess, and brave even to a fault. There is no extremity of distress in which he will not share his last shilling with his friend, and often even with his foe : nor are there any circumstances in which he will not prefer death to disgrace ; and every evil under the sun, to cowardice.—I am not surprised that British seamen, who are as compassionate as they are brave, should feel for my sufferings, and should be indignant at my wrongs. The wrongs and sufferings of a woman, and that woman a Queen, must make a deep impression on their generous hearts. It is only the base and the cowardly that can tamely acquiesce in injustice and inhumanity ; and I am fully convinced, that insulted greatness, or depressed rank, can no where find a surer refuge, or more steady protection, than in the sailors and soldiers of this country.”

Many of the other answers were written in as bad a taste as this, and some in a strain infinitely worse. The working classes of the metropolis were reminded of their hard condition, in this manner :

“There have been times, and perhaps those times may still be, when the hard-earned bread of the long-toiling peasant or mechanic is insufficient for his numerous family; when the penury of the day is succeeded by the inquietude of the night; and when night and day, and day and night, are only a sad succession of pining wretchedness and of hopeless woe. That order of things, which, in a large portion of the community, necessitates the acquisition of subsistence by the sweat of the brow, is the institution of Providence, for the benefit of man: but who does not see, that it is not owing to any ordinance of the Deity, but to the hard-heartedness of the oppressor, when the sweat of the brow during the day, is followed by the tear of affliction at its close; when the labour of the hand, only adds to the aching of the heart; and what ought to be a source of joy, is an aggravation of calamity? But, if these things have been, I may, perhaps, be permitted to hope, that they will, ere long, be only as the troubled scenery of a transient dream; and that happier times are approaching, when commerce will crowd our rivers, trade be busy in our streets, and industry smiling in our fields.”

What possible connexion these had with the Queen's case, or with what propriety such language was put into her mouth by the scribes in her employ, no morally constituted mind could conceive. Yet these answers to addresses were all penned by ecclesiastics; some, as already stated, by Parr, and the greater number by a Unitarian seceder from the church, on the Doctor's recommendation. This appointment proved singularly fortunate to the secretary; for, by virtue of it, he became acquainted with an old political zealot, who was so pleased with these productions, that he made a new disposition of his immense property, the whole of which, to the injury of his nearest relatives, he bequeathed to the author of these venal productions.

Any further discussion of this painful subject would be superfluous, but thus much has been thought necessary in justification of the august personages who, from a feeling sense of what they owed to the honour of their family, their individual interests, and the dignity of the throne, conceived it to be their duty to watch the progress of a measure, that so essentially affected themselves. Not to have done so, would have betrayed a culpable indifference to the ends of justice, or an unworthy fear of popular clamour ; either of which must, in the issue, have made them objects of contempt.

Amidst these unpleasant proceedings, the Royal House of Great Britain lost one of its brightest ornaments, in the death of the Duchess of York, at Oatlands, on the sixth of August. The life of this excellent princess had for some years glided on in a very retired manner, but with so much practical utility in works of benevolence, that her funeral, which took place, at her own desire, in the parish church of Weybridge, evinced the sorrow that prevailed throughout the whole of the neighbourhood. Her delight consisted in making others happy ; and, never having had any children of her own, she adopted those of the poor, whom she fed, clothed, and educated. Nor did her charitable care end there ; for she put out such of her protégés as were found worthy, to useful occupations, and set them up in business afterwards. Besides all this, she had a long list of infirm pensioners, who were paid annually, from her private income, some five, others ten, and not a few twenty pounds. These, and all her other bounties and subscriptions, were continued by the Duke after her death.

On the 10th of December, this year, the Royal Family received great gratification in the birth of a daughter to

the Duke of Clarence. The delivery of the Duchess was premature; but the child, though under the ordinary size, was well formed, active, and promised to live. The baptismal ceremony, however, was administered immediately after the birth, when the name of Elizabeth was given to the infant, in compliance with the desire of the King. This was the last offspring of the royal parents, and in less than three months, all hopes of the succession in that quarter were extinguished, by an intussusception of the bowels, which proved fatal to the child in a few hours.

The Duchess of Clarence was so deeply affected by this calamity, that her life was for some time despaired of; but the consolations of religion came to her relief:—in the following year she had another miscarriage, from the effects of which she also slowly recovered, to the great joy of her friends.

It may here be recorded, that at the close of this year, the royal Duke had the pleasure of giving away his eldest daughter, Miss Eliza Fitzclarence, to the Earl of Errol, in St. George's Church, Hanover Square. On this occasion, the bridal dress was a joint present from the Queen of Wurtemberg and the Princesses Augusta and Sophia.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1821 TO 1823.

TOWARDS the close of the parliamentary session in 1821, ministers succeeded in carrying a proposition for granting an addition of six thousand a year, and eighteen thousand pounds for arrears, to the Duke of Clarence. The division was highly gratifying to his Royal Highness, and not less so to his august brother, there being one hundred and nineteen votes for, and only forty-three against, the motion. On the third reading of the bill, an amendment was proposed for withholding the arrears, but it was negatived by a still greater majority.

One thing remarkable on this occasion was, the connecting with it the claim of the Queen to be present at, and share in, the ceremony of the coronation. In consequence of this, the case was argued, by the King's direction, before the privy council, when the claim of right was rejected. Application was next made to the Archbishop of Canterbury, calling upon his grace to fix a day for the coronation of the Queen alone, and before the Abbey should be dismantled of the present fittings. To this preposterous demand, there could be but one answer—that the primate had no such power. The Queen was equally unsuccessful in her attempt to obtain an entrance into the church as a spectator only; and it certainly indicated very bad taste, as well as a

total want of prudence, in those who were about her person, and enjoyed her confidence, that they did not endeavour to prevent so degrading an exposure as that to which she submitted, in knocking for admittance at one door after another, without being allowed to pass at either.

Of the spectacle itself, we forbear from entering into any description. It was by far the most magnificent ceremonial of the kind ever witnessed in these realms ; and though the expenditure was great, it gave employment to thousands, and occasioned a large circulation of money for the benefit of trade. Sir Walter Scott, who made a journey of four hundred miles to behold the splendid scene, has made some observations on the subject, which are worthy of attention.

“I do not,” says that forcible writer, “love your *cui bono* men, and therefore I will not be pleased if you ask me, in the damping tone of sullen philosophy, what good all this has done to the spectators ? If we restrict life to its real animal wants and necessities, we shall indeed be satisfied with food, clothes, and fire ; but Divine Providence, who widened our sources of enjoyment beyond those of the animal creation, never meant that we should bound our wishes within such narrow limits ; and I shrewdly suspect that those *non est tanti* gentlefolks only depreciate the natural and unaffected pleasures which men like me receive from sights of splendour, and sounds of harmony, either because they would seem wiser than their simple neighbours, at the expense of being less happy ; or because the mere pleasure of the sight and sound is connected with associations of a deeper kind, to which they are unwilling to yield themselves.



Engraved by Thomson.

from an original painting.

George IV.
In the Coronation Dress.

“Leaving these gentlemen to enjoy their own wisdom, I still more pity those, if there be any, who (being unable to detect a peg on which to hang a laugh) sneer coldly at this solemn festival, and are rather disposed to dwell on the expense which attends it, than on the generous feelings which it ought to awaken. The expense, so far as it is national, has gone directly and instantly to the encouragement of the British manufacturer and mechanic; and so far as it is personal, to the persons of rank attendant upon the coronation: it operates as a tax upon wealth and consideration, for the benefit of poverty and industry; a tax willingly paid by the one class, and not the less acceptable to the other, because it adds a happy holiday to the monotony of life and labour.”

Two remarkable instances of mortality, both full of matter for reflection, took place this year; one a little before, and the other almost immediately after, the coronation.

The first was the death of Napoleon Buonaparte on the fifth of May, at St. Helena, of a cancer in the stomach, or rather a scirrhus state of that organ. He had often said, that he should die of that disease which had killed his father. In conformity to his own wish, the body was opened, and the inspection proved the correctness of his opinion. It was noticed before his death, that for more than nine days he had refused all nourishment. This was attributed to obstinacy; but the state of the stomach shewed that he could not have taken the lightest food without pain; so that in one sense it might be said he was starved to death. Thus came to an obscure grave, in a remote island, the troubler of the earth; before whom, a few years before, powerful nations

trembled, and their proudest rulers crouched in abject submission. He had not, at the time of his death, numbered fifty-two years, being born at Ajaccio, in Corsica, on the 15th of August, 1769; yet, within that comparatively insignificant space, what mighty transactions and revolutions, in which he bore a prominent part, took place! At present, the multitude look back to these events as upon the tales of olden times; but men of deeper thought can discern in them the springs of still more and greater changes, some of which are now in operation, and others are beginning to give fearful signs of development.

The next instance of mortality, upon which it is proper to bestow a brief notice, was that of the Queen Consort of England, Caroline Amelia, who died at Brandenburg House on Thursday, the 7th of August, in the fifty-fourth year of her age. The disorder which terminated her eventful history was an inflammation of the bowels, aggravated, if not occasioned, by taking an excessive dose of magnesia, which produced an obstruction in the passages, and ended in mortification. According to her own desire, the remains of the Queen were conveyed to Brunswick, and there deposited in the same vault with those of her father and brother.

The intelligence of this change in the family reached the King in his progress to Ireland, where he was welcomed in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. On his return from thence, he paid a visit to his German dominions, and on the 8th of November returned to London. In the following summer, his Majesty visited Scotland, where his reception was equally flattering. At Edinburgh, the King wished much to obtain a dirk that had belonged to Prince Charles Edward; but, strange

to say, the Highland chief, in whose possession it was, refused to part with the relic ! An old lady, on hearing this, declared her intention to present a knife, fork, and spoon, which had belonged to the Prince, to his Majesty. They were accordingly placed in the hands of Sir Walter Scott, who delivered them to the King, by whom they were received very graciously ; and his Majesty desired his warmest thanks to be conveyed to the donor, with expressions of his regard for every remembrance of the “unfortunate Chevalier,” as he called him. At the drawing-room and the ball, the King took particular notice of the lady, and spoke of her present in a manner that shewed the high value he set on her gift. These articles were enclosed in an old case, which the lady would have exchanged for one of morocco leather, but his Majesty’s good taste preferred the ancient garb.

While the King was thus gratifying his subjects, and relaxing from the cares of royalty, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, chiefly for the benefit of their health, visited their friends in Germany.

On the last day of June, 1822, they embarked, with their suite, on board the Royal Sovereign yacht, and the next day arrived at Antwerp ; from whence the royal party proceeded to Ghent, of which place, the Duke of Saxe Weimar was then governor, for the King of Holland. After passing a few pleasant days with the Duke and Duchess at their villa, the illustrious travellers set out for Coblentz, near which place they visited the chateau of their accomplished relatives of the house of Nieuwied. Here, Prince Maximilian, so well known for his perilous travels and discoveries in South America, exhibited his museum of subjects of natural history, and also a valuable cabinet of antiquities. But what

principally interested the royal visitors and their suite, says Dr. Beattie, who was one of the train, were the handiworks of some fair Moravian artists, comprising a long series of toilet ornaments, embossed or embroidered in a style peculiarly their own. These excited great admiration, in that quarter, where works of taste or merit never fail to secure patronage and encouragement. The Doctor adds, "Like the surgeon who lauds Homer for his accurate and scientific description of wounds, I greatly admired these objects of art, for their correct outline, delicate colouring, and beautiful delineation of some flowers and botanical subjects with which I am acquainted. For the encouragement of the artists, as well as for personal gratification, a quantity of these articles were purchased, and will form pleasing souvenirs of Nieuwied on more than one royal toilet in England. It is only here, I am informed, that work of this description has been attempted with equal taste and ingenuity."*

At Frankfort, the Duke and Duchess were received by the Landgrave and Landgravine of Hesse Homburg, with the Landgrave of Hesse, and other personages, all more or less allied to the royal family of Great Britain. Of the Landgravine, better known to our readers by the name of the amiable Princess Elizabeth, the journalist, whom we copy, says, "She has done more for the happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants, than all the combined events of the last century." Equally high is the praise given to the prince, her husband, who died in 1828. With the interest of his country warmly at heart, he had the good wishes of every one who passed an hour in his company.

* Dr. Beattie's Journal of a Residence in Germany, vol. i. p. 28.

On the 14th, the royal party arrived at Fulda, where they were met by the reigning duke of Saxe Meiningen, a tall, handsome young man, princely in his appearance and deportment, and just come of age. He is said to be partial to England, where he spent some time, and has acquired much of the English manner and character.

The following is Dr. Beattie's account of the regimen observed by the Duke of Clarence in travelling.

"During the eight days' journey to this country, his Royal Highness has not dined more than twice. He breakfasted in the morning at seven, upon tea, and a simple slice of dry toast. A slight luncheon, consisting of cold fowl, Westphalia ham, veal or *gibier*, (the latter, a favourite viand,) was prepared, and put into a small basket in the chariot. One or more of these, with bread, formed the staple banquet of the day, and were resorted to at pleasure. At night, on arriving at the inn, his Royal Highness took tea—and only green tea—of which a supply was brought from Ghent. This summed up the day's entertainment. However late the hour, or potent the infusion, the beverage, I understand, never interferes with his Royal Highness's rest. Such is the power of long habit."

In proportion to this temperate course of living, is the regard of the illustrious personage to economy.

"No man," says the same authority, "can be more attentive and anxious to limit and reduce his expenditure as much as is possible, or consistent with his exalted station, than his Royal Highness. He looks over all the accounts himself, sums up, calculates, adjusts, and compares, nicely balancing every item. When the first account of the expenditure from England to Altenstein

was given in, he examined it for half an hour with great attention, and expressed much surprise at the smallness of the amount.—‘I advise you to take it back, and recalculate the items. It is impossible that I can have travelled from Antwerp to Altenstein for this sum ! How many miles is it ? I observe, here it is specified in stages :—nine days from the coast—fifteen persons—sixteen horses—three carriages—estafette included—one horse being charged for each person.’

“The account has been re-calculated minutely, and returned this morning. His Royal Highness is now perfectly convinced that the journey has been accomplished for the sum specified ; no more having been drawn. He expressed additional pleasure and surprise, and enclosed it to the treasurer. ‘There is no man,’ he added, ‘a better judge of accounts than Barton, and none more particular and correct. This will please him.’”

On the 24th of July, the Duke of Clarence, attended by Dr. Beattie, set out to visit his sister, the Queen of Wurtemberg, at Stuttgart. The next day, his Royal Highness had a very narrow escape with his life. At Kungelsau, where the carriage stopped to change horses, the postilion appeared to be inebriated, but there was no other in the place ; so his Royal Highness, though not indifferent to the result, made the best of necessity—and “away,” says the Doctor, “we went, as if drawn by the devil, and driven by an attorney. The road was good, confined between two hedges, and rising in a gentle acclivity, which was speedily overcome. Our postilion, suiting the word to the action, administered his mettled steeds with an alternate kick, and crack of the whip, which carried us in quick time to the top of the ascent.

“So far, well. Here began another experiment, the

descent—much too rapid and slippery to be safe. The road was bordered by a rugged precipice, and turned, at the foot of the descent, by a sharp angle to the left, which to have described, at this our present rate, must have been attended with imminent hazard. Crossing also the road at right angles, there was a second precipice, defended only by a slight parapet of two feet high. The danger was, that the sudden check which must be given to the carriage, in order to turn the angle safely, might be so sudden, as to overbalance it; or that the horses, either incapable of opposing sufficient resistance, or becoming unmanageable, it might be hurried over the precipice. The latter seemed the more probable, and one or other inevitable, at the time. The postilion, however, continued his career, every moment accelerated by the increased momentum. It was abundantly evident, that he had no power. He made use of every exertion, but in vain, to check the velocity with which he was proceeding. He had by no means calculated the weight of the carriage. His leaders, as usual, had neither bit nor rein; so that he had no command over them, but, instead of driving, was dragged after them. The danger was at its height. The precipice, upon which we were rushing, suddenly appeared. The feeling it excited was like that of the boatman who feels himself hurried irresistibly towards the cataract of Rheinfelden. Though momentary, it left an impression of all that is sublime in fear. The leaders touched the parapet; the wheelers, by a momentary and desperate manœuvre, were thrown on their haunches, almost under the body of the carriage. They offered all the resistance which living muscle and wretched harness could oppose in such an emergency. The effort succeeded. The leaders bolted.

instinctively from the precipice. The carriage reeled for a moment—the wheelers sprang to their legs—the danger was over—but an instance of more imminent danger is of rare occurrence.”

Nothing farther happened in the journey worth notice, and on Friday, the Duke, who travelled under the title of Count Von Munster, embraced his sister at her palace of Louisburg. At the time of this visit, two young princesses of Wurtemberg resided with her Majesty. The eldest was affianced to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia; and there was then at the palace a patriarch of the Greek Church, deputed to instruct her Highness in the mysteries of that faith, preparatory to the marriage. This princess is now in England, as the Grand Duchess Helene. After spending above a week at Stuttgart and in the neighbourhood, his Royal Highness returned to Meiningen, for the purpose of being present at the grand fete given in honour of the birth-day of the dowager Duchess.

On the 1st of September, the Duke and his royal consort left Meiningen for Heidelberg, where they were met three days afterwards by the Queen of Wurtemberg, to whom the Duke of Meiningen was now introduced for the first time. Her Majesty and the Duchess of Clarence had met on a former visit to this country. Here the Queen entertained her illustrious guests with some delightful excursions, chiefly on the Neckar, which, like the Rhine, abounds with romantic and beautiful scenery.

Of one of these water parties, Dr. Beattie says, “As the barge moved slowly against the stream, the chateau, with its towers and terraced steepes, looked more imposing than ever. On the right bank there is a convent,

charmingly situated upon an acclivity, sloping down to the water's edge. It still exercises, we are told, extensive spiritual influence in these parts. All along the course of the river, there was a fresh succession of objects—bourgs, chateaux, towns, and monasteries; but all tenantless, roofless, and deserted. Around them the vine thrives luxuriantly; a monastic ruin, without its vineyard attached, would form a striking anomaly in these parts. The evening was beautiful,—and at the more interesting points, the barge halted for the immediate and quiet enjoyment of the scene. Of this, and the varying colour of the hour, to which it owed its charm, it would be impracticable for any but a skilful painter to attempt delineation. The light and shade were often most singularly contrasted; the romantic turrets and roofs alternately relieved or obscured by the westering sun—here, lighted up as with fire; and there, sombre, cold, and desolate—kept the eye and the imagination agreeably employed during the excursion. Having halted a short time at a point concentrating all those picturesque and romantic features for which the river is so celebrated, the royal party disembarked, and returned in the carriages forwarded for that purpose towards Heidelberg. Her Royal Highness seemed delighted with this excursion. She paints with inimitable taste and effect from nature, and can readily appreciate the beauty and picturesque character of the scenery through which she has passed.”

It is well known that George the Third had a most tenacious memory, and some extraordinary instances are recorded of his recollection of persons and circumstances after very long intervals of time. It appears that the same faculty was common to all his children.

Dr. Beattie says in his journal, "The Queen of Wurtemberg is not less gifted with a faithful memory than her royal brother. In conversing upon the many pleasing topics which early reminiscences supply, there was one here to-day, respecting their favourite Kew. Both agreed as to the year, the month, and the day, upon which the circumstance in question took place: the hour alone was left undecided. This might appear unimportant to any one not accustomed to place implicit reliance upon this faculty; but with these royal personages, the memory is almost an infallible book of reference. The circumstance happened just before the general peace in 1781-2."

The anecdote, no doubt, is perfectly correct in the circumstance, but, unfortunately for the narrator's own memory, it is grossly inaccurate in point of date. The general peace was not in 1782, but in 1783, at which time, the prince was in America, or the West Indies, from whence he returned in the summer of the last mentioned year. The matter is of no importance in itself; but it is one instance, out of many, how stories may be marred in the reporting.

After making a short stay at Hesse Homberg, the royal party left Germany for Brussels, where some delay took place in consequence of an accident to the carriage. Here Colonel, afterwards Sir Hutton Cooper, arrived, to pay his respects, accompanied by Dr. Sayer, so well known for his researches into the Scandinavian mythology. The Duke introduced these visitors to Dr. Beattie, as his particular friends, and observed, "Cooper is an old physician, one of your own profession, but preferring, he says, military tactics to medical statistics—don't you, Cooper?"

From Brussels the royal travellers proceeded to Ghent, where they rested for a few days, and, with the Weimar family, on the 21st of August embarked on board the Royal Sovereign at Antwerp. "It is pleasing to reflect," concludes Dr. Beattie, "that, during a journey of such length and variety, through the less frequented circles of Germany, neither hurt nor accident has occurred to any one. His Royal Highness has derived essential benefit from the tour. His confirmed state of health is a topic of frequent remark with himself, and of gratifying observation with others. Air and exercise, in their due time, place, and proportion, seldom fail in imparting strength and stability to the constitution. In the economy of health, they are of the first-rate importance. There is probably no country in Europe, where they will be productive of more certain pleasure and advantage than in the provinces of the Rhine."

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1823 TO 1825.

IN the spring of 1823, after much difficulty and many obstructions, an institution was established at Plymouth, entitled, "The Royal Navy Annuitant Society." When an adequate number of officers had entered themselves as members, it was deemed expedient to solicit the Duke of Clarence to become the patron of the Society, and Viscount Melville to be the vice-patron. At the request of his Royal Highness, a deputation from the committee waited on him, when, after a minute examination of the rules and regulations, he stated his full approval of the institution, and condescended to become its patron. His Royal Highness had previously given support, in the same manner, to the Naval Charitable Society at Plymouth.

In the course of this year, the Duke of Clarence lost three of his old friends and associates—Lord Keith, Earl St. Vincent, and Lord Erskine.

With the first, who was then the Honourable George Elphinstone, his Royal Highness served for some time in the American war, off New York and the Chesapeake. When the prince's establishment was formed, on his becoming Duke of Clarence, Captain Elphinstone was appointed to the situation of treasurer and comptroller of the household of his Royal Highness; which he held nominally to his death. Upon the professional merits

and achievements of this naval veteran, it is unnecessary to dwell, but there are two incidents in his personal history worth mentioning. The noble admiral was twice married. By his first wife, who died in 1789, he had one daughter, who in 1817 married Count Flahault, aid-de-camp to Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo. The second partner of his lordship was the daughter of the famous Mrs. Piozzi, by her first husband Mr. Thrale. Lord Keith was sixty-two, when, in 1808, he ventured again into wedlock; and at the age of sixty-three he had another daughter, who survived him, as well as her mother.

Though this brave man had seen as much service as any commander in the navy, and that in all parts of the world, his health continued firm and good to the age of seventy-seven, when he closed his career at his native place, Tulliallan House, near Kincardine in Scotland, the 10th of March, 1823.

John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent, who died on the fifth of the same month, at his seat in Essex, is another remarkable instance of nautical longevity. He had numbered eighty-nine years, above seventy of which were devoted to the public service, either on shore or afloat. He was one of the last of the school of Hawke, under whom he entered as a midshipman in the year 1748, and in 1755 he became a lieutenant. In 1782 he was invested with the military order of the Bath, for his gallantry in the capture of the *Pégasè*, a French ship of seventy-four guns; in reporting which, Admiral Barrington, to whose fleet he was attached, said, in his official despatch, "My pen is not equal to the praise that is due to the good conduct of Captain Jervis, his officers, and seamen, on this occasion; but his own

modest narrative, which I here enclose, will speak for itself."

As a proof that he continued to be actuated by the same unassuming spirit, it deserves to be recorded, that when informed of his elevation to the peerage, and that the dignity conferred was named St. Vincent, commemorative of the victory he had gained; the noble veteran said he was satisfied, for that this title belonged to every officer and seaman of his fleet. The earl was a man of strong mind, resolute in what he undertook, and unbending in his ideas of discipline and subordination.

In the administration of Mr. Addington, now Lord Sidmouth, Earl St. Vincent was appointed to the presidency of the admiralty board, when he immediately instituted a rigid inquiry into the abuses that prevailed through the several departments of the naval service. For this purpose, in the summer of 1802, his lordship, accompanied by some of his colleagues, made a tour of inspection to the outports; where all the dock-yards and arsenals underwent a minute investigation, which was followed by numerous reductions, and the discharge of many men who had been employed for years in different offices. In consequence of this inquiry, at the next meeting of parliament a bill was brought in by Admiral Markham, for appointing commissioners to inquire into the abuses and irregularities practised in the naval departments. The bill passed through the Commons, and was sent to the Upper House; where, though supported by Lord Nelson and others, it was opposed by the Duke of Clarence, who contended that its provisions were nugatory, ridiculous, mischievous, and unconstitutional. His Royal Highness concluded a very long speech, with moving, that the bill be read

this day three months. The question being put upon the Duke's motion, it was rejected, and the bill passed.

On the dissolution of the administration, Earl St. Vincent was superseded, and Lord Melville took his place. Some discussion, in relation to this change, being brought on in the House of Commons, Mr. Pitt said, "I admire the dauntless valour, I extol the splendid achievements, I acknowledge the vast renown, of Lord St. Vincent: to him we are indebted for shedding extraordinary lustre on our national glory. But between his lordship as a commander at sea, and his lordship as first lord of the admiralty, there is a wide difference."

In consequence of this, the earl took the first opportunity to observe in the House of Lords, that a right honourable gentleman at the head of affairs, having, in another place, made his conduct the subject of animadversion, he was desirous of knowing, whether there was any intention, on the part of ministers, to submit that conduct to public inquiry—in order that he might be prepared to meet the charge?

Lord Hawkesbury, to whom the question was addressed, replied, that, as far as he knew, there was nothing of the kind in contemplation.

Soon after this, the Duke of Clarence took up the subject. His Royal Highness said, that, observing a noble viscount (Sidmouth) present, who had been at the head of the administration while his gallant friend managed the marine department, he could not forbear calling on his lordship for a declaration, now that he had joined with the present ministers, of the sense which he had formerly held, and still continued to hold, of the conduct of the noble commander, during the

period of his direction of the naval department. The royal Duke added, that, having known the noble earl for twenty-six years, he felt himself called upon, both as a member of that house, and as an officer, to state, that he had never seen cause to differ from his gallant friend, but once ; and that was with respect to his ideas on the subject of the peace. Had the conduct of the noble earl, in his ministerial capacity, become the subject of discussion, it should unquestionably have met with his decided support. He expected, therefore, from the noble viscount a consistent declaration as to the opinion which still remained in his mind, of the conduct of that noble and illustrious naval character.

Lord Sidmouth said, that, called on as he had been by the royal Duke, he could not resist answering the question which had been put to him. He felt no hesitation, therefore, in declaring now, as he had uniformly done before, that he highly approved of, and held in the most perfect respect, the conduct of the noble earl, both in his situation as a naval commander, and as the head of the marine department. He should be guilty of gross inconsistency, and of a violation of his own firmly fixed sentiments on the subject, if he did not state that the noble earl was, in his opinion, entitled not only to the thanks, but to the warmest gratitude of the country.

The royal Duke then observed, that he felt pleasure on hearing this consistent declaration of the noble viscount ; and would not trouble their lordships any further on the subject.

Notwithstanding this complimentary colloquy, however, it is certain that the noble earl was far from being popular while at the head of the admiralty. While he

received credit for correcting some abuses in the dock-yards, the violence of his proceedings was generally condemned. Many old and valuable officers, and a great number of the best artificers, were thrown out of the service, and obliged to seek a livelihood in Russia, America, and other maritime countries. The customary supplies of timber, and other naval stores, were omitted to be kept up; some articles, particularly hemp, were actually sold to disadvantage; and many of the ships were suffered to go unrepaired—so that, upon the renewal of the war, the navy was found to be in a worse state than it ought to have been after a peace of thirty years. All this arose from a false principle of economy and retrenchment; by following which, the government was soon after put to great inconvenience, and the nation to an enormous expense.

On the death of Lord St. Vincent, the Duke of Clarence succeeded to the lucrative station of general of the royal marines.

The following anecdote, which is highly honourable to the noble earl, rests upon indubitable authority. When as the head of the board, a captain in the navy, the son of a baronet, and of great connexions, applied to his lordship for a ship. The earl said, he was determined not to grant any thing to influence or intercession; and as a number of meritorious men, particularly lieutenants of line-of-battle ships, who had distinguished themselves in action, and become commanders, were cast out of employment, they should be preferred above all others, and in all cases short of a royal mandate.

Another extraordinary person, who terminated his chequered course of life this year, was Thomas, Lord Erskine. He was, at the outset of life, a midshipman

in the navy; but quitted that service, on being denied promotion, and then entered into the army as an ensign in the Royals, or first regiment of foot. Finding, however, that he stood little or no chance of rising in the military profession, Mr. Erskine next turned his attention to the study of the law, and succeeded with a rapidity that could scarcely be expected. But upon his legal and political history it is unnecessary to make any observation.

While at the bar, his name stood pre-eminent; and he might have left behind him a splendid reputation, and to his family a noble estate. Blind ambition ruined him; and though he gained a title, and a retired pension, he passed the remainder of his life without a character, and ended it at the age of seventy-five in obscurity and poverty. Though the Duke of Clarence had long honoured Lord Erskine with his particular friendship, the part acted by the ex-chancellor, on the trial of the Queen, appeared so inconsistent, and even ungrateful, that no farther intercourse took place between them. What rendered the conduct of this eccentric man peculiarly disgusting was, that of obtruding himself to notice in a case which, above all others, exposed his own gross obliquities to public view, as a husband, and the father of a family.

About this time, there occurred a circumstance which, though not much observed, reflected great credit upon the liberal spirit of George the Fourth. His Majesty being informed that the remains of the unfortunate James the Second had been discovered by the workmen employed in digging the foundation of the new church at St. Germain's in France, then about to be built upon the site of the old edifice, expressed a desire that the relics should be removed to a proper receptacle. The

French government acceded to the wishes of the King of Great Britain, and, on the ninth of September, 1824, the body was removed in great state, and deposited beneath the altar, until the new church should be completed.

This was one of the last acts of Louis the Eighteenth, who, after a long and dreadfully severe illness, closed his eventful life on the 16th of September, 1824, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. The day before his death, he said to his brother and successor, "Judgment will soon be passed upon my reign; but whatever may be the opinion that shall prevail, I assure you, that every thing I have done has been the result of serious deliberation."

To the Duchess of Angouleme, who was in tears, he said, "If you knew what I have suffered for the last three years, you would not weep, but rejoice."

Louis was a good scholar, being well skilled in Latin and Greek. He is said also to have written some dramatic pieces, which were brought out without his name, or adopted by others. However various might have been the opinions of him as a sovereign, there could be but one as to his private character, which was strictly virtuous and amiable. He was firm in his religious principles, but far from being a bigot; as a proof of which, there was not an ecclesiastic in the procession at his funeral.

In 1771, the late king married Maria Josephine Louisa of Savoy, who died at Hartwell House in 1810, and lies interred in Westminster Abbey. His brother and successor, Charles Philippe, born in 1757, was married to Maria Theresa of Savoy, who died in 1805. By this princess he had two sons, the Duke d'Angouleme, and

the late Duke de Berri. The coronation of Charles the Tenth took place at Rheims, with a degree of pomp and parade, equal, if not superior, to that of Napoleon, on Sunday, the 29th of May, 1825. The English plenipotentiaries who attended this magnificent spectacle, were, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Granville, and Sir George Nayler, who invested the King of France with the order of the Garter. On the 6th of June, Charles publicly entered the good city of Paris, but his reception was of the most chilling description. The shops were all shut; and though most of the houses in the streets through which the procession had to pass, were hung with tapestry and ornaments, there was little appearance of loyal feeling in the inhabitants. The whole, indeed, might justly have been termed the funeral of royalty.

Of the two last kings of France, of that line, the Duke of Kent left behind him the following sketch, written in 1811.

“To begin with Louis XVIII. There is no man that ever fell in my way, who is more agreeable in conversation than his majesty, or who has more of erudition, classical and historical. He is, indeed, well read in all the diversified branches of literature.

“His brother, Le Comte d’Artois, has all the elegant address of the court, and seems pleasant in general society; but I suspect he is not considered as possessing those gifts and attainments of intellect for which the king is pre-eminently distinguished.”

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1825 TO 1826.

IN the evening of the 20th of March, 1825, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence embarked at Woolwich, on board the Royal Comet steamer, for the Continent, and landed the next day at Calais, from whence they proceeded to Dunkirk, thence to Ghent, and 'on the first of April arrived at Meiningen. The inducement for taking the journey so early in the year was, to do honour to the marriage of the reigning Duke of Saxe Meiningen with one of the princesses of Hesse Cassel. The nuptial ceremony took place at Cassel on the 23d of March; and on the fifth of April, the young Duke and his bride made their joyous entry amid great rejoicings, which continued several days. These festivities, however, were suddenly interrupted by the death of Prince Charles Louis of Hohenlohe Langenburg, brother of the Duchess dowager of Saxe Meiningen. This was the second instance of mortality in the family within two months; the other was that of Frederick, the fourth Duke of Gotha, in whom the male line became extinct, and the dominions of the house fell to the collateral branches of Hildburghausen, Cobourg, and Meiningen.

In this tour the Duke of Clarence took with him two of his unmarried daughters, who, soon after their arrival in Germany, were affected by the change of climate, so as to render medical attendance necessary. Dr. Beattie,

in noticing this, observes, "As a father, his Royal Highness might serve as a model to every parent in the British empire. Unremitting attention to their intellectual improvement, unwearied solicitude for their personal comfort and welfare, and an affection limited only by the dictates of prudence and good sense, give him at once a title to the affection of his family, and to the approbation of every observer.

"On attending the Duke in his private apartment, I every morning make my report respecting their health. A fortnight ago, Miss Amelia caught cold, followed by symptoms of a nature that demanded prompt and decisive treatment. During the interval, his Royal Highness visited her at a distance from the chateau, four or five times a day; always suggesting something to engage and divert her attention. She has been able to resume her usual exercise this afternoon, which has afforded the greatest satisfaction."

Among the domestics and dependants at the castle of Meiningen, there resided then, and perhaps does still, an aged African, to whom the Duke was very kind, and of whose feeling, in return, Dr. Beattie relates this pleasing anecdote.

"Poor old Henri! wherever I meet him, he expresses his gratitude both loud and long. 'O pless his Highness! pless him—pless him! What you tink his Highness give me?—pless him. What you tink?' I don't know, indeed, Henri; but here is something more, which you may count over at your leisure; it has a pleasant clink.

"Poor Henri's fluency of speech was suddenly stopped. He could not even repeat *pless him!* but instantly burst into tears—which said more.

“Henri is a trusty old servant, and a pensioner on the invalid list of the reigning family there, but now worn out with age and infirmities. He has served, I believe, more than one line of princes, and originally, on the shores of Guinea, might have been himself a prince.”

Another anecdote of the royal benevolence to an invalid of a different class follows: “This morning, an old soldier of the German Legion called upon me. He had just served so long, and been wounded so slightly, as to be dismissed in the King’s name, with a vivid recollection of the last campaign for his only pension, and a medal to tell the story whenever his memory failed. He had either been informed, or had dreamed, of his Royal Highness’s arrival in these parts; and thought, if he could find his way into the royal presence, it would be worth a month’s rations to him. He was not mistaken. I acquainted his Royal Highness with the services of the old soldier, and the hopes of the petitioner. He was satisfied with the veteran’s account of himself, and, in token thereof, I was commanded to present him with a gratuity proportioned to his necessities. The sight of gold was, indeed, a treat to him, who had seen and felt so much of the cold iron. As I dropt it into his hand, prayers, such as soldiers pray, were showered liberally upon the head of his illustrious benefactor.—‘Now it is I am proud of being a soldier,’ said he, ‘and a soldier of the German Legion.’”

At the end of May, the royal party left Meiningen for the baths of Ems, the salubrious qualities of which have been celebrated for ages, and are still frequented every summer and autumn, as much perhaps for pleasure as for health. Here the Duke and his family took up their

residence at the *Chateau-a-quatre-tours*, situated amidst scenery so romantic, that his Royal Highness said it reminded him of that on the river St. Lawrence, in North America.

A few days after his arrival at Ems, an officer waited upon the Duke, to compliment his Royal Highness in the name of the King of Prussia. The Duke received the aid-de-camp while taking his usual walk, in which he invited the stranger to join. "On the present occasion," says Dr. Beattie, "the walk, though not so long as many of those in which his Royal Highness is accustomed to indulge, was much longer than the Prussian officer expected on a visit of ceremony. It was more than two hours; and, on taking leave, he assured me, that, perfectly unaccustomed to such pedestrian feats, he was ready to drop with fatigue; and must, he feared, in the event of another visit, be obliged to perform his duty by proxy. He could not comprehend why a prince of the blood should voluntarily subject himself to such fatigue."

Some further interesting particulars of the royal habits, we shall take the liberty of giving on the same authority.

"Unless when engaged with important business or company, his Royal Highness observes the same punctuality in his hours of retiring and getting up, that he does in the public and private duties of his station. Eleven o'clock is the hour at which he generally retires. At seven in the morning he is dressed; and, when the weather permits, walks in the avenue or gardens till eight, or later. In this country, breakfast occupies but a few minutes,—a dish of coffee and a rusk comprise all that is generally offered. These are served in a small tray or plateau, during or immediately after the operation of

dressing. At the chateau, however, the English breakfast is still adhered to.

“When the letters are finished, and enclosed to the *chargè d'affaires* at Frankfort, his Royal Highness walks till dinner-time; then comes in, dresses, and proceeds to the drawing-room. He does every thing by system.

“Air and exercise are those essentials to health and longevity, which his Royal Highness observes with strict and uniform punctuality. His walks, which have occasionally extended to four, are very seldom less than two hours' duration, and generally taken at the hottest period of the day. When prevented by the state of the weather from indulging in out-door exercise, his Royal Highness uses the large drawing-room as a substitute, with one or more windows thrown open, so as to afford the best means of counteracting the effects of temporary confinement.

“If vigour of constitution is to be acquired or improved by the quantum of exercise thus taken without fatigue, his Royal Highness may anticipate a hale and green old age.

“In travelling, whenever the carriages halt at a fresh relay, it is his custom to alight, and employ the interval, though only five minutes, in exercise. In wet or damp weather, he never ventures abroad, not even in the carriage, without adopting the precaution of wearing galoches.

“In diet here, as in England, his Royal Highness observes a strict regimen,—plain roast or boiled mutton to dinner: such George the Third preferred. Sherry is his favourite, and, I may say, only wine. I never saw him taste Port; and seldom French or Rhenish wines. He rarely eats roots or vegetables, not even a

potato. The only beverage in which he indulges an innocent freedom, is barley-water flavoured with lemon."

While at Ems, the Duke was attacked by his periodical asthmatic complaint; of his conduct under which, Dr. Beattie gives this account.

"His Royal Highness, as a patient, takes freely whatever is prescribed, and with that measure of confidence which is always gratifying to the physician, and, in certain cases, contributes not a little to accelerate the cure. During his present illness, I am usually asked about what hour the medicine will take effect, and the attack subside. To such questions, the answer must be more or less hazardous—yet they must be answered. Last night, the spasm was protracted nearly an hour beyond the time predicted. 'Well, Doctor, you thought this fit would abate by nine o'clock; now, you observe, it is near ten. Well, well, it can't be helped.' This said, he became perfectly calm. The paroxysm abated so far, that he was able to retire to bed, and enjoy some hours of refreshing sleep."

On the 25th of June, the Doctor notes thus in his journal. "His Royal Highness's asthmatic attack is now over. It began on the 12th with the usual symptoms. Two days ago it gradually subsided, and to-day he walked out, and continues perfectly convalescent. The only thing to be feared, and which is rendered probable by the sultry state of the weather, is a relapse. During the fortnight, his Royal Highness has gone to bed every night at or before eleven o'clock, and in no instance was he obliged to get up before half past five. It would be difficult to say to what cause this remarkable mitigation of symptoms is to be attributed. In all probability, much benefit has accrued from change of diet, air, exercise, and situation.

“This has been the easiest attack his Royal Highness has experienced for four-and-twenty years. I have been seven nights on the watch ; not from any necessity suggested by the symptoms, but from a sense of the high responsibility of the situation in which I am placed. To attend a patient in London, where the first talent and experience of the day may be called to our assistance at a minute’s notice, affords confidence, and removes anxiety ; but to attend a similar case in Germany, where no such professional resources are open to us, is a duty of increased weight and consideration. Under these circumstances, I have been greatly assisted in the discharge of my duties, by that frank and gratifying confidence which his Royal Highness has deigned to repose in me. The confidence of his patient, is, in every case, of first-rate importance to the physician. In the former, it inspires hope ; and in the latter, it gives a two-fold efficacy to the salutary resources of his art.

“The right of interrogation has been duly exercised by his Royal Highness during the attack. When administering the different medicines suggested by the symptoms present, he has generally desired me to explain to him, ‘why exhibited in this or that form ; how, why, and with what combined ; their nature, properties, and the indications they were intended to fulfil.’ These were questions, which, at times, I felt difficulty, often delicacy, in answering. To one of them he was pleased to add the following compliment :—‘I will do you the justice to say, that, although a young physician, the medicines you have given me during my illness have fully answered the purpose intended. I have not got so easily over it for many years.’”

Soon after his recovery, in the middle of July, the

Duke went to visit the Queen of Wurtemberg at Deinaach, her summer residence in the Black Forest. In this tour occurred a pleasing incident, which is thus related by the journalist to whom we have been so much indebted for traits of character, and anecdotes of importance.

“On the heights of Mergentheim,” says the Doctor, “there is an isolated linden-tree by the road side—one of the forest out-posts, inviting the traveller to admire its stately growth, and, if he please, refresh himself under its shade. The morning was very hot, and the ascent from Mergentheim laborious. Halting at this point, to allow the postilion time to repair his harness and light a fresh pipe, his Royal Highness was so much struck with the landscape, that he alighted, had the luncheon spread upon the soft moss under the tree, and enjoyed at once a kingly repast and a kingly prospect. The former consisted of cold fowl, *gibier pique au lard*, a bottle of volnay, bread, and barley-water; the latter comprised towns, terraced hills, forests, flocks, vineyards, and their villages. At this elevated point, and after driving through the sultry and confined valley of Bichoffsheim, the air was peculiarly balmy and invigorating, and, so to speak, spiritual. His Royal Highness, during the journey, has repeatedly mentioned the agreeable surprise this halt at noon afforded him. The tree may one day, perhaps, obtain the flattering designation of ‘The King’s Tree.’”

The Queen Dowager was overjoyed at seeing her brother; and it became evident that the meeting, and the excursions which followed, had an exhilarating effect upon both of the illustrious personages.

“These early hours,” says Dr. Beattie, “in conjunc-

tion with daily exercise and the salubrious air in which that exercise is taken, have contributed most materially to benefit his Royal Highness's health. He is at this moment as vigorous as if he had not passed the age of forty. In proof of this, he has on various occasions been several hours a-foot, without experiencing any thing like exhaustion or even fatigue. At Meiningen and Ems, however, the facilities for pedestrian exercise were much greater than here, where, with a few exceptions, his Royal Highness's time is entirely devoted to the Queen. She is well entitled to it; and, in return, is ever planning something new for the entertainment of her brother, to whom she is greatly attached.

At the beginning of August, the Duke returned to Meiningen, where, on the 13th, being the birth-day of the Duchess, the same was celebrated by a fête, in which the peasantry had their full share of sports and pastimes. At this time, the Prussian military reviews, in the neighbourhood of Coblenz, brought together a great concourse of royal and noble personages from all parts of Germany. Among these, the principal were the King and princes of Prussia, the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, the Grand Duke of Baden, the Dukes of Clarence, Cumberland, and Cambridge, with many other royal personages of different countries and degrees. The two Colonels Fitzclarence attracted particular notice by their soldier-like deportment.

When these military entertainments terminated, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence took leave of their German friends, and proceeded without delay to Antwerp, where the royal yacht was waiting for them; and on board of which a splendid dinner was given to the King of Prussia, the King and Queen of the Netherlands, and

a number of others, to the amount of one hundred persons of the first distinction.

The next morning, the royal yacht, towed by the Comet steamer, fell down the Scheldt to Flushing; and on the ensuing day got under weigh, with a fresh breeze at the north-west, for the Thames, which it was supposed they would enter in a few hours. The Flushing pilot, however, who studied the aspect of the heavens by the rule of experience, predicted a storm; and the augury was fulfilled. In less than two hours after leaving the Scheldt, the wind blew a hurricane, and the sea ran mountains high, insomuch that the steamer which had the yacht in tow could not hold, and the vessels separated. Upon this, the yacht bore away for Yarmouth Roads, which she fortunately reached the next day, and landed the royal party, who set off for London. Meanwhile, the Comet steered for the Downs, and, after narrowly escaping the Goodwin Sands, entered Ramsgate pier without any accident.

In the course of this year, the Duke of Clarence lost one of his old professional friends, and the public a most valuable character. This was the Right Honourable Admiral William Waldegrave, Lord Radstock. He entered the service so early, that at the age of eighteen he became a post-captain. In 1793, he was with Lord Hood at the taking possession of Toulon; and in 1797, he was vice-admiral under Sir John Jervis in the battle off St. Vincent. When that great commander was made a peer, Admiral Waldegrave was offered a baronetcy; which title he refused, as inferior to the rank he already had as the son of an earl. Upon this, he was created a peer of Ireland. Lord Radstock was a brave man, a genuine patriot, and a Christian in the purest sense of the

word. He was cut off suddenly by a stroke of apoplexy at the age of seventy-two.

On the 19th of November this year, died at Taganrock, in the south of Russia, in his forty-eighth year, the Emperor Alexander. His object in visiting that part of his dominions, was for the sake of his Imperial consort, whose state of health required a more temperate climate than that of the north. But, inscrutable are the ways of Providence—the empress profited by the change of air, and the emperor died of an ulcerated sore throat in that salubrious region.

The following letters from the widowed empress of Russia to the empress mother, exhibit not only the true feelings of nature in the amiable writer, but the character of the lamented object.

“ Taganrock, Nov. 18, 1825.

“ DEAR MOTHER,

“ I was not in a state to write to you by the courier of yesterday. To-day, a thousand and a thousand thanks to the Supreme Being; there is decidedly a very great improvement in the health of the Emperor—of that angel of benevolence, in the midst of his sufferings. For whom should God manifest his infinite mercy, if not for him? Oh, my God, what moments of affliction have I passed! and you, dear mother—I can picture to myself your uneasiness. You receive the bulletins. You have, therefore, seen to what a state we were yesterday reduced—and still more last night; but Wylie (an English physician) to-day, says himself, that the state of our dear patient is satisfactory. He is exceedingly weak. Dear mother—I confess to you that I am not myself, and that I can say no more. Pray with us—with fifty millions of men—that God may deign to complete the cure of our beloved patient.

“ ELIZABETH.”

The next day all these hopes were dashed in pieces, and the empress wrote as follows :

“ Nov. 19.—Our angel is gone to heaven, and I—I linger still on earth. Who could have thought that I, in my weak state of health, could ever have survived him? Do not you abandon me, mother, for I am absolutely alone in this world of care. Our dear deceased has resumed his air of benevolence; his smile proves to me that he is happy, and that he gazes on brighter objects than exist here below. My only consolation under this irreparable loss is, that I shall not long survive him: I hope soon to be re-united to him.

“ ELIZABETH.”

The Emperor Alexander married, in 1793, the princess Louisa of Baden Durlach; who, conformably to the rules of the Greek church, obtained a new name, that of Elizabeth Alexiena. This marriage produced two children, both of whom died in infancy. The throne descended to the Grand Duke Constantine, who soon after transferred his right to the present reigning emperor, Nicholas.

The empress dowager did not, as she herself had predicted, long survive her illustrious partner. On the 16th of May, 1826, she died at Beleff, in her way from Taganrock to Kaluga.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1826 to 1827.

ON Sunday the 21st of May, 1826, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence set out for the continent, and the next day landed at Calais, from whence they proceeded through Flanders to their former residence near the baths of Ems. This was at the beginning of June, and in the same month his Royal Highness had a very severe visitation from his old asthmatic disorder. "During this attack," says Dr. Beattie, "I have very seldom left him, even for an hour. I have watched, as on a former occasion, six nights in succession. I have seen him under the pressure of much personal suffering, exhausted by a series of spasmodic attacks, surprised by their sudden accession, or unexpected recurrence; but I have never seen him lose his temper, or self-possession. The perfect composure with which he waits the result, is a lesson in practical philosophy, which it is edifying to observe, and pleasing to commemorate."

On the conversational powers of his illustrious patron, the same gentleman has the following observations and anecdote.

"I am often surprised at the facility which his Royal Highness evinces in conversing upon a variety of topics, which might be thought entirely foreign to the natural channel of his thoughts and pursuits. I uniformly re-

mark, that with whomsoever he enters into conversation, he accommodates himself to the topic in which that individual is known, or supposed, to take most interest, and upon which he may be more easily drawn out. With the soldier he discusses the merits of the last campaign, or enters into a dissertation upon military tactics—with the senator, some popular question of the cabinets. With respect to one subject, wherewith the glory of England is so interwoven, I repeat the words of a distinguished admiral who dined here: ‘I am astonished,’ said he, ‘at the thorough knowledge which his Royal Highness retains of naval affairs ;—so minute, and laid down in such accurate detail, I was quite taken by surprise. I had often heard of the Duke’s excellent memory, but confess I was not prepared to find it exemplified by such instances as you heard to-day. I had, myself, hardly any distinct recollection of the lieutenant, but his Royal Highness remembers every officer of the ship ; and not their names only, but their family. This must be little less than forty-five years ago.’”

The naval officer, here alluded to, is supposed to have been Vice-admiral Wolley, who was the shipmate of Prince William on board the *Barfleur*, and enjoyed much of his Royal Highness’s confidence when on that station. The friendship then formed was renewed afterwards at Halifax, and ultimately continued in a frequent correspondence through life. At the time when the above conversation occurred, Admiral Wolley was settled at or near Brussels, where he died in the course of the same year. He left a widow with two sons and two daughters, in such narrow circumstances, that the Duke took the boys under his own immediate protection, and provided for

the rest of the family. The admiral, like many other brave men when retired from active life, became extremely nervous, and at times sadly depressed in spirits, so that it required the utmost energy of his royal friend to rouse him, by word and writing, from the despondency ; which gave pain to all who knew his worth.

What has been said of the epistolary intercourse of the Duke and his old associate, is illustrated by the following passage in the journal of Dr. Beattie.

“ On post-days, his Royal Highness generally employs from two to three hours in correspondence. The method of answering all letters by autograph is habitual, and always appears to afford him satisfaction. Upon my making some observation during his late attack, to induce him to limit his application on this head, his Royal Highness replied, ‘ I admit the propriety of your suggestion, but I must keep up the practice of letter-writing—I have always done so—and one day or other, I may have still more occasion for it.’ ”

Speaking of another characteristic feature of his illustrious patron, the Doctor says :

“ In expressing his opinion of men and things, the Duke is always frank and explicit. Whatever be the subject upon which he chooses to communicate his sentiments, they are invariably followed by a statement of the premises from which his conclusions are drawn. For example, ‘ This is my opinion ; and I’ll tell you why : ’—or, ‘ There I differ from you ; and I will give you my reasons.’ ”

On the 10th of July, the royal party arrived at Schwalbach, after encountering a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain ; which flooded the roads, and nearly blinded the horses and their drivers. The horizon

was so darkened, and the wind increased to such a degree, that great fears were excited lest the carriages should be precipitated into the deep ravines which flanked the road in every direction. Fortunately, no accident occurred, and at Schwalbach their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by a party of minstrels, who had travelled one hundred and fifty miles from Meiningen, on purpose to greet their beloved princess.

After paying a short visit to the Duke and Duchess of Saxe Weimar, at their beautiful residence of Wilhelmsthal, the travellers proceeded, through very tempestuous weather, to Deinach, in the Black Forest; and thence, by a discursive route, to Constance. At Altingen, which the royal party did not reach till ten o'clock at night, much inconvenience was experienced, in the want of proper refreshment and accommodation.

"The lateness of our arrival," says the journalist, "surprised the landlord and all his establishment in bed. After considerable parley, and abundant space to survey the premises externally, the door of hospitality opened, and we were ushered, by a half-accoutred hostler, into a large, solitary, and well-sanded apartment. A sort of rushlight, making darkness visible, glimmers in niggardly welcome at the extremity of a long deal table. Upon this our luggage is placed. There is nothing eatable in the house. That don't signify—the landlord assures us we shall have coffee in less than an hour. There was fine cold meat and sour kroust, not more than three hours ago, but then it had been clean snapt up by some wayfaring wolves from Eugen! There were also beds, and very much at our service; but at present they were all occupied by the same party! The diligence, however, will take them all off in a few minutes

past five o'clock, and then,'—'What then?' 'The said beds would be well seasoned, warm, and fit for their Excellencies.'—But if their Excellencies declined waiting till five, he had fresh hay, one empty room, besides the present, and three mattresses; 'would they prefer this?' 'Certainly.—Had he any wine?' 'Oh yes, he had wine.'—'What more?' 'Good black bread.'—'Any thing else?' 'Coffee!'—That, of course; but had he nothing else substantial? 'Oh, yes; he had cheese, and potato-salad, and nothing more.'—The hay is brought, the mattresses spread, another light put on the table, and we are in hourly anticipation of the promised banquet."

Having completed the circuit of Wurtemberg, our travellers proceeded by the way of Ulm to Stuttgardt, or the city of vineyards, and on the 17th of August alighted at the palace of Louisberg. On the 27th they returned to Meiningen, of whose prince we have the following character. His serene highness is exceedingly and deservedly popular among his subjects, whose loyal attachment to his person and government is conspicuous on every public occasion. Private acts of benevolence on the part of the sovereign are of frequent recurrence. To such young men of his subjects as evince any particular talent in the departments of art or science, his liberality is evinced in a degree suitable to the case. They are allowed a pension, and provided with other facilities for prosecuting their studies in foreign countries, by travelling and observation. These liberalities are continued for such a period as shall enable them to return proficient to their native country. In grateful acknowledgment of this paternal interest in their advancement, the painter, or architect, on his return from

Italy, devotes the first-fruits of his study to the embellishment of his native city, or the gallery of his excellent sovereign.

The Duke of Clarence and his family having now spent four months in visiting their friends, and making several excursions throughout Germany, prepared for their return to England. On the 11th of September, they left Altenstein, for the purpose of visiting the Landgrave of Hesse Rothenbourg at Wildeck. Here, we are told, a considerable number of French emigrants found shelter during the long and eventful period of the revolution. The generous disposition of the prince was exerted to the utmost on their behalf; and those whom he could not restore to their country, he admitted to his society, and supported by his bounty. Among other peculiarities, his serene highness had at this time upwards of three hundred parrots, comprising every known variety of the species; or, at least, all that could be procured from different countries, and capable of being reared in a climate to which they were not used.

On the 23d the royal party reached Coblenz, after a fatiguing journey, but especially so to the attendants, among whom accidents were of very frequent occurrence. In all such cases, the conduct of the Duke was unremitting kindness to the sufferers, and an anxious concern, by personal attention, to every means for their recovery and comfort.

On the 26th, the travellers arrived at Namur; where every thing was in order for their reception, an estafette having the day before been despatched for that purpose. The dinner was ready to be served, the lights were burning on the table, the cellar had sent forth its best, and the host and hostess stood with candles in

their hands to receive the illustrious strangers. It was no small addition to the entertainment, to observe the cheerful faces that surrounded the table, all eager to anticipate the wishes of their noble guests. From time to time the mistress of the hotel looked in, to observe whether every dish was in its proper place, and if such and such other delicacies were relished by their Royal Highnesses. Every time the door opened, a curious face seized the opportunity to obtain a cautious, but most gratifying, peep of the table."

In their way, the next morning, from Namur to Brussels, the royal travellers spent some time at Quatre Bras, La Belle Alliance, and Waterloo. At the former, the spot was pointed out where the Duke of Brunswick so gloriously fell. At the second, the monuments along the road were observed with deep interest and sympathy. The reminiscences of the guide set the events of the battle minutely in view. The position of the British and French armies—the stations of the rival commanders—the scenes of the sanguinary combats—the decisive charges of the Life Guards and Scotch Greys—the spot where Picton fell—with numerous other localities—were particularly noticed, and excited indescribable sensations.

The church of Waterloo, the interior of which is cased with marble records of British heroes, is a shrine of more than ordinary solemnity. Among the officers personally known to his Royal Highness, and in whose praise he spoke at the time, the name of Colonel Fitzgerald of the Life Guards was particularly remarked.

This long and last continental tour terminated at Calais, on the 30th of September, without any serious mischance; and on the following day, the royal party and their suite landed safe at Dover.

As every circumstance illustrative of character is of importance, it will interest the reader to learn the order of travelling pursued by the Duke of Clarence on these journeys.

“On alighting at the hotel at night,” says Dr. Beattie, “it was the rule to make every arrangement for the expedition of the party *en route*, and their comfortable reception at the inn the following day.

“To secure these important objects, I wrote a letter to the master of the hotel, where their Royal Highnesses proposed to dine and sleep the night ensuing. This letter contained a statement of the number of the suite, arrangements for the first, second, and third apartments, chambers, and beds. The dinner ordered for each table was restricted to a fixed price; that of wines, and apartments for the night, was left to the discretion of the landlord. To these particulars was added the hour at which the party would take the road in the morning; so that the landlord could calculate the exact time at which, barring accidents, his welcome visitors would honour his table.

“Charged with these instructions, the letter was addressed and sealed, and on the back the following order, in French or German:—‘The postmasters having authority on the route from A to B, are hereby required to furnish twelve post-horses at each station, for the expedition of his Excellency, Count de Munster, and suite, in three carriages. His Excellency will leave this hotel to-morrow morning at seven o’clock precisely.’—This done, I took the letter to the post-office, had it countersigned by the postmaster, received his acknowledgment, saw it expedited by estafette, and felt no further anxiety for the result.

“In the morning, the horses were at the door by the hour appointed; the postilions mounted, the leadersounded a flourish on his bugle, and drove off. Fresh relays turned out at every station, as the carriages came in sight, or were announced by the bugles of the postilions. On arriving at the hotel, every thing was found in readiness, as had been ordered; the apartments swept, aired, and garnished for the occasion, and the dinner ready to be served.

“This quiet and unostentatious way of travelling adopted by their Royal Highnesses, afforded them so much satisfaction in respect to comfort and expedition, that it was invariably employed on all occasions. On alighting at Calais, the Duke, in alluding to this circumstance, ‘felt persuaded,’ he said, ‘that, in these extensive journeys, he had never been delayed ten minutes on the road by want of horses.’”

In winding up this miscellaneous chapter of private and personal history, it may be as well to bring together some insulated circumstances and notes, which either have been passed over inadvertently, or could not properly find a place in the order of the narrative. Instances of royal urbanity and condescension, benevolence and attention, to menials and domestics, have already been adduced, upon the first authority. The following, which cannot fail of contributing to the reader’s amusement, is here given in the words of Dr. Beattie.

“His Royal Highness’s liberality and indulgence are proverbial among the household, and I often observe both exemplified in an equally pleasing and striking manner.

“‘I think,’ said he to me yesterday morning—‘indeed I see, that J—— feels solitary and uncomfortable here ;

he wants something to amuse, something to occupy his mind. What do you think can be done for him? He is an old and faithful servant. There's a fine stream—do you think he could amuse himself in fishing?' I thought he might. 'Well then, as you are going to Coblenz, you may bring him a fishing-rod, and see what that will do.' The fishing-rod was bought accordingly, and will, I have no doubt, form a heir-loom in Mr. J's. family.

"To-day I had the pleasure of knowing that it has already proved a very pleasing remedy for the *ennui* or *nostalgia* that manifested itself; and my worthy friend has already communicated the important notification, that he has this afternoon had 'three glorious nibbles' in less than the same number of hours.

"There are few traits of character that gain more readily upon our esteem, than those which manifest themselves in the just appreciation and requital of faithful services. The former, his Royal Highness is ever ready to acknowledge; and the latter he is equally disposed to confer, when that is in his power. I have heard him regret his inability to comply with the request of his private friends and dependents; but I have never known him, by word or letter, dismiss an application which it was in his power to entertain. With these dispositions, it is to be hoped that his Royal Highness may one day enjoy a wider sphere for their exercise, and means better proportioned for carrying into effect the suggestions of a noble and generous nature.

"Should it ever happen that he is called to the throne of his ancestors, an event which, from a knowledge of his constitution, and the hourly observation of his salutary habits of life, I think extremely probable, there

could be no doubt of his becoming a deservedly popular monarch. He has no expensive habits—no passion for the mere gratification of empty display. His taste directs him to what is solid and lasting, not to what is frivolous or ephemeral. He is not subject to gusts of passion, nor biassed in his actions by peevish or sullen resentment. His speech and conduct seem equally under the influence of matured judgment and long established principles.

“In his domestic circle, he is uniform, cheerful, and communicative; abroad he is accessible, affable, and accommodating; neither affecting a lofty demeanour, nor descending below that standard of royal dignity, which, if forgotten by him, would teach others to forget. He does not, as it is commonly expressed, put himself on a par with the individual with whom he converses; on the contrary, he raises that individual, for the moment, to a par with himself, waves unnecessary forms and distinctions, and shows a desire that the manner may be neither embarrassed, nor the free expression of sentiment impeded, by the external ensigns of rank, or the appendages of royalty. In this, or in something nearly akin to this, consists the true ‘principles of politeness’—the art of the perfect gentleman.”

To his illustrious partner, whose many and exalted virtues he so duly appreciates, no man can evince, by word or manner, more delicate and uniform attentions than his Royal Highness. There are not, perhaps, of the present day, two personages, of similar station, in whom the virtues of domestic life are more pleasingly exemplified. With those excellent qualities of mind and heart, so eminently possessed by the royal Duchess, it is not surprising that she should have won and re-

tained the esteem and affection of her illustrious consort. His mind is fully alive to their vital importance as regards his present happiness, and to the influence they must exercise over his future prospects.

We shall close this chapter with an interesting account of the celebration of the birth-day of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Clarence.

A few minutes before two o'clock, an elegant and select party sat down to dinner in the banquet-hall of Altenstein. On one side of the table were eighteen princes and princesses of the country; and in the present instance, all nearly or remotely connected with the reigning family.

The band was stationed in the ante-room, and, during the repast, continued to enliven the scene with the choicest music of the day. In due order, the health of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Clarence was proposed, when the company immediately rose, and, bowing in expressive silence to her Royal Highness, emptied the glass of champagne. The band then struck up with increased effect the anthem, "God save the King." The health of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was next proposed, and couched in the following delicate and ingenious terms:—

"The eternal union of the Thames and the Werra! Upon their united tide may the navy of England ever ride triumphant!" This was drunk with great enthusiasm, and again followed by the national air.

As it was intended to conclude the day at Liebenstein, where great preparations were made for the purpose, the company rose from table soon after dinner, and the whole set off, to animate the expecting crowds with their presence.

On alighting at the villa, the Duchess was met by a deputation of peasant girls holding in their hands some fresh garlands, with which they gracefully proceeded to decorate her neck and shoulders. Her Royal Highness received this delicate expression of their affectionate attachment in the most amiable manner, and with words that went to the hearts of those gentle priestesses of the Saxon Flora. The smile of complacency, and the cordial affability with which she received this little deputation from the fairest of her brother's people, will long maintain a place in their affectionate hearts. Nothing could have been more unaffected and impressive than this little simple ceremony, which a variety of circumstances rendered still more interesting.

These innocent villagers accompanied the offering with a song, of which Dr. Beattie has given the following version :

Oh ! let our simple garland bind thee
 Flowerets from thy native tree,
 Though rustic hands the pledge have twined thee,
 'Tis our HEARTS that welcome THEE !
 This garland, to thine eye appealing,
 Speaks thy country's cherish'd feeling,
 And the welcome wreaths we twine,
 Are forest flowers of Altenstein,

ADELAIDE.

Flowers upon thy path we scatter
 With lowly hand, but spirit true ;
 THOU wilt not despise the latter,
 Nurtur'd where thy virtues grew !
 Thy welcome every voice is greeting,
 Thy welcome every lisp repeating :
 Music wakes its sweetest tone,
 To bid thee welcome to thine own,

ADELAIDE.

'Mid those mountains memory gathers
 Many a glorious deed of eld!—
 Vale and forest, where thy FATHERS
 The sceptre and the cross upheld!
 Welcome to the scenes of youth!
 To hearts of love and lips of truth!
 All hail, and hark, from rock and stream,
 Echo answers to our theme,

ADELAIDE.

Hail, DAUGHTER of a house of heroes,
 Wielding sceptre, sword, and pen!
 Whose guardian spirits hovering near us,
 Watch the weal of MEININGEN!
 Peace be thine, where'er thou art—
 Health on cheek, and joy at heart!
 And in thine own adopted far-land
 Many—many a birthday garland,

ADELAIDE.

As this was a fête that could not often be celebrated under the same happy concurrence of circumstances—the immediate presence of the illustrious princess in whose honour it was given—it was hailed with additional interest, and produced more than ordinary eclat. To welcome the return of her Royal Highness to Saxony—to carry their felicitations in person to the scene enlivened by her appearance, and that of her august consort—were circumstances too flattering to be of annual recurrence, and too tempting to be neglected by any one within a day's journey of Liebenstein.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1827 TO 1829.

THE lamented death of the Duke of York on the 5th of January, 1827, placed his next brother in a new position, as heir presumptive to the throne. Soon after the funeral, at which his Royal Highness attended as chief mourner, a message from the King was delivered to each house of parliament, recommending an additional provision for the Duke and Duchess of Clarence. The proposal of ministers for an increase of three thousand a year to the Duke, and of a jointure of six thousand to the Duchess, was acceded to, but not without opposition from an insignificant minority. This object had scarcely been effected, when a sudden change in the government brought the royal Duke forward still more conspicuously to public view.

It is remarkable, that the last appearance of the Earl of Liverpool in the House of Lords was on the 16th of February, when he introduced the motion just mentioned. His lordship retired to rest at his usual hour, the same night, and on the following morning he breakfasted alone in his library, and at the same hour received the post-letters. Some time elapsed—and the servant, not hearing his master's bell, entered the room, where he found his lordship stretched on the floor, motionless, and speechless. Medical aid was called in, when it appeared that the earl had been seized by a fit of

apoplexy and paralysis, which affected the whole of his right side. As soon as his situation would admit, he was removed to Coombe Wood, his seat near Kingston, where he remained in the same melancholy state till the 4th of December, in the following year, when death put an end to his misery.

The incapacity of the Earl of Liverpool to resume office being put beyond all doubt, it became evident that a new premier must be appointed, and it was of course expected that a successor would be chosen from among his colleagues. Some weeks, however, were suffered to elapse, before any thing like a final arrangement took place. At length, on the 11th of April, Mr. Canning received the commands of the King to form an administration, of which he, as the first lord of the treasury, was to be the head. Upon this, Mr. Canning addressed letters to each of his colleagues, apprising them of the commission he had received, and expressing his wish that the public service might continue to profit by their talents and experience. The answers returned were so very cold and reserved, that it was obvious a general dissatisfaction prevailed among the members of the late cabinet, at the conduct of Mr. Canning in this proceeding. Several resignations, in consequence, immediately followed; but it was not till the 24th of the same month, that all the appointments were completed.

One of the most striking novelties in this administration was, that of setting the Duke of Clarence at the head of the marine department, with the revived title of Lord High Admiral, after that dignity had lain dormant, and the duties of the office been discharged by commission, for the space of one hundred and twenty-seven years.

The last person that enjoyed this elevated rank previous to the nomination of the royal Duke, was Thomas Earl of Pembroke, who succeeded Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne, in 1708, but was dispossessed in less than two years, when the office was put in commission. The predecessor of the prince was James, Duke of York, who continued to hold the title of lord high admiral of England, even after his accession to the throne, and till his abdication at the Revolution. On the present occasion, instead of the customary board of junior lords, there was a council appointed, to assist the Lord High Admiral, consisting of four members ; Sir William Johnstone Hope, Sir George Cockburn, William Robert Keith Douglas, Esq., and John Evelyn Denison, Esq.

What advantage the minister had in view, by this departure from the old practice, he never condescended to explain ; and, what appeared still more extraordinary, no reason was ever given for excluding the Duke of Clarence from the cabinet, where the first lord of the admiralty had always a seat ; and that very properly, as the only responsible officer, in the direction of one of the most important departments of the public service.

Immediately after taking this situation, his Royal Highness gave notice of his intention to hold regular levees, for the reception of all naval officers bearing commissions. He also introduced some alterations in the uniforms, and new regulations respecting the appointment of commanders in ships of the line.

While thus occupied, the royal Duke became associated with several public institutions for the advancement of science and virtue ; such as the Royal Society, the Botanical Society, and the Society for the Promotion

of Christian Knowledge. At the anniversary dinner of the latter society,* held on the 22nd of May, his Royal Highness presided, and gave great satisfaction to the meeting by his politeness, but particularly by the following address :

“Whether the declaration I am about to make be popular or unpopular, I think it right, in reference to the peculiar character of this meeting, to assert, at this time, that to the sound and strict principles of the Church of England, I am unalterably attached—and that it will be, at all times, and under all circumstances, my first desire and duty to maintain those principles.”

On the prorogation of parliament at the beginning of July, the Duke of Clarence made a professional excursion along the southern and western coasts, for the purpose of inspecting the state of the outports and naval arsenals. His Royal Highness went by water, on board the Royal Sovereign yacht ; but the Duchess, having no inclination to an aquatic tour, followed by land, paying visits to several of the nobility whose seats lay in the way. At Portsmouth, the Lord High Admiral, after inspecting the ships in ordinary, and reviewing the royal marines, accepted an invitation from the mayor and corporate body to dine with them in their hall, where about one hundred and thirty persons, among whom was Earl Spencer, sat down to table. At this entertainment, the Duke desired Mr. Selwyn, the recorder, to give his compliments to Chief Justice Best, now Lord Wynford, then one of the judges on the circuit, and desire him, when he had a touch of the gout, to remember his Royal Highness, and their early acquaintance.

From Portsmouth, the illustrious party proceeded to Plymouth ; the Duke in the yacht, and his consort

through Salisbury, Honiton, and Exeter. Here also several fêtes were given in honour of the royal visitors by the municipal authorities, and the officers of the army and navy. After remaining a week at Devonport, the Lord High Admiral in the yacht went round the Land's End to Milford; while the Duchess went across the country to Ilfracombe, on the northern coast of Devon, where she embarked in a steam-packet, to join his Royal Highness in Wales.

While here, the Duke received the melancholy tidings of the death of his attached friend, The Right Hon. George Canning, on the 8th of August, at Chiswick, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire. Upon this intelligence, their Royal Highnesses set off without delay for town; and on the 16th, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex attended the funeral of the departed minister in Westminster Abbey; where they supported the chief mourner, Mr. Charles Canning—the Lord High Admiral on the right, and his brother on the left.

On the death of Mr. Canning, Viscount Goderich became first lord of the treasury, and Mr. Herries succeeded the deceased minister in the office of chancellor of the exchequer. Few other changes, however, took place; and the Duke of Clarence still retained his situation at the board of admiralty, but without any share in the cabinet councils.

In the course of this summer, the Queen of Wurtemberg re-visited her native land; but the pleasure which her arrival afforded, after an absence of above thirty years, was damped by the occasion of her coming, which was to seek for relief under an incurable disease. The stay of her majesty was very short; and on the fifth of October in the following year, she expired at her

chateau of Louisburg, to the great sorrow of her people, by whom she was commonly called "The good Queen."

A writer who knew her well, and had witnessed her benevolent acts, gave this testimony to her character.

"The mode of life pursued by her majesty was invariable and systematic. During the summer she had usually concluded her morning toilet by six, often much earlier. She appeared in public at one o'clock, received the homage of her court, and that of the strangers or functionaries, who had the *entré* to her table.

"The activity of her mind was incessant; her hands were seldom without some adequate subject for the display of a refined and cultivated taste, or the exercise of that laudable industry, which, to her, had become delightful from long habit, and of which innumerable traces remain, as the finest ornaments of the royal palace. In this, her majesty sought not pastime alone; she had a higher object in view. She aimed to inculcate on those around, by personal example, this most important lesson—that in the proper distribution of our time, and the wise employment of our faculties, the great secret of human happiness is to be found—that, instead of pursuing pleasure as an occupation, we should find, that from prudent occupation alone, we can secure lasting pleasure and satisfaction.

"The natural affability of her majesty's disposition; the enviable talent of relieving the restraint, and enlivening the conversation, which her presence might have been supposed to impose, or to check, made a presentation at the court of Louisburg an object of first importance. Few days during the summer, but some illustrious family or individual was presented by the resident ambassador, and found a place at her hospitable table. Of these

strangers, the majority were public functionaries, or the fair daughters of that beloved country, the land of her birth, and proud inheritance of her royal brother. On the cherished remembrance of early days, her mind and conversation dwelt with peculiar delight. The sentiments she expressed, well became a daughter of the illustrious dynasty from which she sprang, and that crown and kingdom of which she had become the pride and the ornament. Her name, embalmed by those exalted virtues which added so much lustre to her life and her reign, will find a ready passport to the love and veneration of posterity. The days of her life were so many acts of beneficence. She supported the aged, and patronized the young; every hour had its allotted portion of evil to correct, or of good to communicate."

Let us now return to the regular train of narrative.

The grand civic entertainment given on the ninth of November, 1827, at the inauguration of Alderman Lucas into the office of lord mayor this year, was honoured by the presence of the Lord High Admiral; who, however, narrowly escaped suffering a severe injury in the midst of the feast. By way of respect to the illustrious guest, a splendid illumination of variegated lamps, disposed in the form of an anchor, was placed over that end of the room where his Royal Highness sat, next to the lady mayoress. This splendid pageant, consisting of a large and heavy frame-work of wood, not being properly secured, gave way, and fell to the floor with a tremendous crash; but no other damage ensued than that of inflicting a slight bruise upon the Duke, spoiling some elegant dresses, and frightening the ladies.

The day after this accident, the royal Admiral was highly gratified by receiving from Sir Edward Cod-

rington a letter, containing the particulars of the defeat of the Turko-Egyptian fleet, in the bay of Navarino, by the combined English, French, and Russian squadrons, on the 20th of the preceding month.

Into the details of this brilliant victory, it is unnecessary to enter; but though it threw additional glory upon the naval character of Britain, the circumstance, considered politically, involved the cabinet in some difficulty. At the time when this sanguinary combat took place, an amicable connexion between this country and the Porte subsisted; nor had any thing occurred to disturb the friendly relation, till the great Christian powers interposed, on the principles of humanity, in behalf of the Greeks, who were struggling for the recovery of their long-lost independence.

The interference of the allied powers, only served to inflame the malignant passions of the Ottomans; especially when terms were proposed to the sultan, which, in the true spirit of a ferocious despot, he regarded as injurious to his dignity. At first, the Turkish potentate talked loudly of his determination to reject all overtures of mediation. The infidels, he said, were his subjects, and, being in a state of insurrection against lawful authority, he had a right to consider them as rebels, and as such he would treat them, without being dictated to by any foreign state whatever.

At length, however, this haughty tone was lowered, and the divan consulted; when the negotiations, that had been suspended, were renewed. Meanwhile, Ibrahim Pacha, with an Egyptian fleet, entered Navarino, and landed a large body of Turkish troops, who committed dreadful atrocities upon the defenceless inhabitants of the Morea. Upon this, the English and French admirals

came off that port, and had an interview with Ibrahim ; the result of which was, a promise, on his part, that no further outrages should be committed by the forces, and that he would not remove with his ships till he received instructions from Constantinople. Both pledges were violated. The Turkish-Egyptian admiral made an effort to elude the vigilance of the combined fleets, and to escape from Navarino to Patras ; which design being prevented, he landed the troops, and wreaked his vengeance upon the miserable Greeks, desolating their country with fire and sword. The allied commanders, Sir Edward Codrington, the French admiral De Rigny, and the Russian Admiral Heyden, then agreed, on the 18th of October, to take a position in the port of Navarino, for the purpose of renewing and enforcing the treaty. On entering the bay, and coming to an anchor near the Turks, a fire was opened upon some of the flags of truce, in consequence of which, a general action ensued, and the whole armament of the aggressor was destroyed.

When the intelligence of this affair reached the ambassadors of the allied powers at Constantinople, on the last day of October, the first step they took was to hold a consultation upon the proper steps to be pursued in such an emergency. As they were ignorant whether the government had yet received any account of the disaster, their embarrassment was increased, and they could come to no resolution on that day. They therefore postponed their deliberations till the following morning ; and while thus engaged, they were surprised by a message from the Reis Effendi, desiring the attendance of an interpreter from each embassy. On their appearance, the minister told them that a report was in circulation

of an unpleasant nature respecting a naval conflict at Navarino. The interpreters admitted that such an affair had occurred, but that it was occasioned by the imprudence of the Turkish commander; in proof of which, they read extracts from the letters received by all the ambassadors.

At this critical juncture, news arrived that Fabvier, a French officer, and Lord Cochrane, had made a landing on the Isle of Scio, and compelled the pacha to retire with his troops into the fort. This intelligence coming so inopportunately upon the former, heightened the resentment of the divan; nor could all the representations of the ambassadors remove the impression, that both events were connected and preconcerted. In this angry feeling, the ministers of the allied powers were informed, that all intercourse between their several courts and the Porte must cease, till satisfaction should be given for these wrongs, and a total cessation from all interference with the affairs of Greece be consented to by them and their subjects. With these terms the ambassadors refused to comply, and at the beginning of December they all three quitted Constantinople.

It cannot be denied that this was a case altogether of great perplexity, and one that might have been attended with very serious consequences, had the Ottoman government possessed power enough to have supported its demands. Even as it was, the circumstances tended to weaken that influence which England had long enjoyed in Turkey, and which was so beneficial to the interests of commerce. On this account, the King, in his speech at the opening of parliament on the 29th of January, mentioned the "conflict at Navarino with the naval force of an ancient ally, as an untoward event."

Without attempting either to justify or condemn this unexpected occurrence, an event, that might truly have been termed "untoward," introduced the new year. This was, the landing of Don Miguel at Greenwich, in his route to Portugal, of which kingdom he was appointed lieutenant by his brother, Don Pedro, emperor of the Brazils. To do honour to this branch of a family, with whom England had for a long period preserved an alliance, the Lord High Admiral went down to receive his Highness, and conduct him to town in state.

During his stay, he resided at the house of Earl Dudley in Arlington Street, which his lordship gave up for his use. Here the prince held several levees, and gave audiences to foreign ambassadors and ministers. He was twice sumptuously entertained at the Admiralty by the Duke of Clarence; and, after visiting the King at Windsor, he proceeded to Plymouth, where, on Sunday the 20th of January, he embarked for Lisbon in a Portuguese frigate. The rest of the history of this personage is too well known to merit any observation on his character.

Among the other circumstances of a remarkable nature which distinguished the commencement of the new year, that of summoning the parliament to meet on the 29th of January, attracted particular notice, as being the anniversary of the King's accession, and of course a religious festival, with an appropriate liturgical service. Notwithstanding this, there was an unusual assemblage of members in each house, occasioned by the intense anxiety which another change of the ministry had excited, and the appointment of the Duke of Wellington to the situation of first lord of the treasury. Instead, however, of that explanation which was the principal object of

general expectation, respecting the causes of these revolutionary movements in the councils, the debates at the opening of the session turned upon the recent occurrences in Greece, and the difference produced by it between the allied powers and the Porte. The usual addresses, however, were carried, and an adjournment took place.

The King was at this time confined to his room by a severe access of gout, brought on, it is said, by having neglected his usual medicinal precautions and regimen, in order to be present at the fête given to Don Miguel. Thus, by a high stretch of compliment to an object totally unworthy of the distinction, England was in danger of losing her own sovereign ; and though the apprehended disaster did not then occur, it is certain that the King suffered more from this than from any previous attack. The disorder was further aggravated by the divisions in the cabinet, the secession of Lord Goderich, and the necessity of holding frequent councils in the royal chamber, while the afflicted monarch was obliged to decide upon conflicting opinions in bed. Notwithstanding this, and the continued seclusion of the royal patient at Windsor, a profound silence respecting his actual condition was maintained by the physicians in attendance, during the whole period of his confinement, which lasted some weeks.

Of the parliamentary business in this session, the first, and, considered as prelude to other changes, the most important measure, was the repeal of the test and corporation acts. It does not appear that the Duke of Clarence took any part in this proceeding, but the motion was vigorously opposed by the Duke of Cumberland, and as strenuously defended by his brother of Sussex.

On the 27th of May, the Duchess of Clarence

embarked at Woolwich to meet her mother at Calais, and accompany her Serene Highness to England. The Duchess of Meiningen spent the summer here with great satisfaction to herself, and to her illustrious relatives. During her stay, several excursions were made to various places in the interior of the country, and along the coast as far as Plymouth. Among other entertainments, the Lord High Admiral gave, on the 18th of June, a very splendid regatta on the Thames, in commemoration of the battle of Waterloo. For this purpose, the lord mayor granted the use of the city navigation barge, which was moored off Waterloo Bridge. At an early hour, four of the city barges were brought up the river, and thus stationed: the lord mayor's on the right of the Navigation barge, the Merchant Taylor's on the left; the Vintners' on the right of the head, and the Drapers' on the left: the men belonging to them appeared in their respective uniforms; and the barges displayed various elegant standards. The whole were under the direction of Captain Woolmer of the navy; and the arrangements were similar to those adopted at Venice on such occasions. Nothing of the kind had occurred in this country since the reign of Charles the Second. The Navigation barge was chosen on account of its size, being one hundred and forty-six feet long, and nineteen wide on the deck, which was entirely covered with an awning—the royal standard hoisted at the mast head, a union jack at the bow, and the city flag at the stern.

At about half past two o'clock, the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, the Duke of Sussex, the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Princess Sophia Matilda, and the Duchess of Saxe Meiningen arrived; being soon

followed by Prince Leopold. Their Royal Highnesses were received by bands of music stationed in separate barges; and at the same time there was a discharge of cannon from the Lambeth shore.

At half past four, the Duke of Wellington arrived, accompanied by Lord Arthur Hill; and the approach of his grace was hailed by loud cheers from the crowds which thronged the shores, while the bands in the barges struck up, "See the conquering hero comes." The Duke went on board the barge belonging to the company of Merchant Taylors; from whence he was conducted by Captain Spencer, secretary to the Lord High Admiral, to His Royal Highness, in the grand cabin of the Navigation barge.

At about half-past five, the entertainment ended; the Duke and Duchess of Clarence, with the Duchess of Meiningen, taking their departure in the William and Mary yacht boat, and the rest of the royal family in the Admiralty barge.

The Duke of Wellington set off soon after in a six-oar'd cutter, rowed by as many young noblemen, who set the hero of Waterloo on shore at Whitehall Stairs; the amateur boatmen taking off their hats when his grace landed. It was seven o'clock before the entire company, consisting of nearly five hundred persons of the first distinction, departed.

In the month of September following, the Duke of Clarence resigned the situation of Lord High Admiral, and that office was once more put into commission, Viscount Melville being again placed at the head of the board. Many reports were circulated to account for this change, which came upon the public by surprise, and excited considerable indignation against the new

ministry, particularly among the members of the naval profession, who had, little more than a year before, rejoiced at the dismissal of Lord Melville, as a change that promised to be equally beneficial to their individual interests, and the public service. By some it was said that differences between the royal Admiral and the Duke of Wellington, in regard to the promotion of naval officers, were carried to such a length, that, as neither of the high-minded personages would concede, the resignation of one or the other became indispensable.

In this dilemma, the King, whatever might be his own opinion or inclination, could hardly be said to have any choice. The dissolution of the administration was not to be thought of; and therefore, to avoid that consequence, the marine department was restored to its former state. Upon this, the Duke of Clarence, now reduced to a private life, removed with his family from the Admiralty to his house in the Stable Yard of St. James's Palace. Shortly after this, the Duchess of Meiningen left the English capital on her return to Germany, being accompanied to the place of embarkation by her illustrious relatives; when the parting was most affecting on both sides.

The departure of this excellent princess was succeeded by the landing of another royal lady on the British shore—the young Queen of Portugal, Donna Maria de Gloria, daughter of Don Pedro, Emperor of Brazil. She was proceeding to Genoa, with the intention of going from thence to Vienna, when the commander of the Brazilian frigate, and the persons who were entrusted with the care of the princess, apprised of the usurpation of Don Miguel, deemed it imprudent to proceed up the Mediterranean, but, after touching at Gibraltar, altered

their course, and set sail for England, where the royal stranger landed on the 24th of September.

Her reception here was such as might be expected from a nation that had ever been distinguished by sympathetic feeling for the oppressed and afflicted. But though the King and the people concurred in paying the young queen all the honours due to her rank, and all the attentions which her tender age and circumstances required, it was observed with concern, that the ministry were less favourably disposed to acknowledge her title than that of the usurper.

This was very extraordinary, for, as one public writer justly observed, "The rights of the young queen to the throne of Portugal were incontestable on every principle of legitimacy; they had been admitted by the Portuguese nation; they had been recognized by every court of Europe; they had even been repeatedly sworn to by the man who then usurped them; and the absence from Lisbon of the representatives of all the powers which acknowledged her majesty's title, shewed the light in which the usurper was still viewed."

CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1829 TO 1830.

ON the 5th of February, 1829, parliament was opened by commission, when the speech delivered in the name of the sovereign, after noticing the general state of Europe, and particularly the war then going on between Russia and the Porte, concluded with recommending to the two houses, to "take into their deliberate consideration the whole condition of Ireland, and review the laws which imposed civil disabilities on his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects; to consider also, whether the removal of these disabilities might be effected consistently with the full and permanent security of our establishments in church and state, with the maintenance of the reformed religion established by law, and of the rights and privileges of the bishops and of the clergy of this realm, and of the churches committed to their charge. These are institutions (it was observed) which must ever be held sacred in this Protestant kingdom, and which it is the duty and the determination of his Majesty to preserve inviolate."

Thus, what was denominated Catholic emancipation had become, after many arduous struggles during twenty-five years, a cabinet question; and the King was reduced to the mortifying necessity of proposing from the throne, a measure which, it was well known, he personally disapproved.

The immediate consequence of this extraordinary change in his Majesty's councils was, universal agitation throughout the kingdom. Both houses of parliament were inundated with petitions from all parts against granting further concessions to the Catholics. The presenting of these petitions gave rise, day after day, to long discussions on the policy of the measure. In one of these debates, on the 23d of February, the Marquis of Londonderry, after expressing his warm approbation of the conduct of ministers, observed, "It was, however, a most extraordinary thing, that this great object was about to be carried by those who had so long opposed it. He quarreled not with those who had formerly been hostile to the Catholic question ; he merely looked forward with joy and satisfaction to the great result. When they talked of the sacrifices which this man or that man might make, he confessed that he thought there was only one individual who could be said to have made sacrifices—and that was the individual who could not tender his resignation. If that individual took the course which he conscientiously believed to be necessary for securing the happiness of one part of the empire, he would be adored in that country hereafter ; and he would be described in her annals, as having achieved her salvation. In the quarter to which he alluded, he believed, there was a strong feeling in favour of the Irish people ; and if the measure to be proposed by ministers received the royal assent, and became a law, it would excite feelings of gratitude from one end of Ireland to the other. His Majesty would be handed down to posterity as the first sovereign who had ever, in his speech from the throne, recommended to Parliament the cause of the Roman Catholics of Ireland."

When the Marquis of Londonderry had concluded his speech, the Duke of Clarence drew the attention of the house.

His Royal Highness began with saying, that he rose in consequence of an expression that had fallen from his noble friend who had just sat down. His noble friend had said, that his Majesty's ministers were unanimous on this question, and that those who had been generally opposed to it, had become its advocates. It was this observation which called on him to address their lordships on this occasion, which was nearly connected with the internal state of Ireland, rather than in the petitions of those who appeared to know little or nothing about the situation of that country. It was remarked by his noble friend, that his Majesty's ministers were now unanimous on a question relative to which they were hitherto divided. He wished to God that his Majesty's ministers had been unanimous on that question long ago; or, he rather wished, that an united administration could have been formed in 1804, for the purpose of carrying this measure, for, from that hour to the present, his opinion had invariably been, that what was falsely called concession, ought to have been resorted to. He said "falsely called concession," because he maintained that what was asked for, was not concession; it was merely an act of justice, to raise the Roman Catholics from their present state of degradation. It was that, and nothing more. And when an act was passed for that purpose, he would pledge his life, that it would have the effect of uniting and quieting eight millions of his Majesty's subjects. Now he was on his legs, he would state his opinions as shortly as he could, reserving to himself the right to support the noble duke and his colleagues, when he saw them so unjustly and infamously attacked. If his Majesty's ministers, fortunately for the good of their sovereign and of their country, were at length united with reference to a measure of such great consequence, he did, from the bottom of his heart, thank the noble duke for having effected such an union; and he would support, as he ought, a measure which he most deeply and decidedly believed to be favourable to the best interests of the country. For forty years he had enjoyed the honour of a seat in that house, and during that time, he trusted in God that he had never given a vote at which he need blush; but unquestionably he never had given a vote with so much pleasure and satisfaction as he should feel in supporting the contemplated measure. He congratulated all Europe on his Majesty's conduct, in recom-

mending this subject to the consideration of parliament. He did so, because every man who had common sense must see that the settlement of this question would be beneficial to the interests of England ; and he would maintain, that the interests of Europe were closely connected with the interests and prosperity of England. Every thing which operated to the preservation and security of British interests, operated also to the benefit of the general interests of Europe. He looked upon the measure which was about to be proposed, as one of the most important for this country, that could possibly be conceived. He was happy that the noble duke was selected by his Majesty to effect this great object. He rejoiced to find him placed in his present situation ; and so long as he acted as his colleagues had hitherto done, so long should the noble duke, and his Majesty's ministers, have his hearty vote. When he thought it was right to tender his resignation, which his Majesty was graciously pleased to accept, he, in the only conversation he ever had with the noble and learned lord on the woolsack, (Lyndhurst,) told him that he never would join in a factious opposition to ministers, but that on the contrary, he should feel it to be his bounden duty to give them his support, when their measures appeared to be calculated for the benefit of the empire ; and he trusted that no action of his had belied the declaration. Nothing but the absolute conviction of the important crisis at which the country had arrived, and a strong desire to support the administration, could have induced him to come forward on this occasion. The noble duke and his colleagues had acted openly, boldly, firmly, and valiantly, and he thought it but an act of justice, thus publicly before God and man, to declare his sentiments with respect to their conduct. Professionally educated as he had been, it had fallen to his lot to have visited Ireland ; and he should be the most ungrateful of men, if he forgot the reception he had there met with. During all his experience, he could bear testimony to the character, the energy, the bravery, and the thorough good humour, of Irishmen. If the venerable Duncan, who gained immortal fame by his victorious action with the Dutch, but who had served his country more by the energy and discipline with which he kept his fleet at sea at the time of the mutiny at the Nore, were in existence—if Earl St. Vincent, whose blockade of Cadiz reflected the highest honour on him, were living—or if one, who was more dear to him than any other officer in the service, he meant the great Nelson, the hero of Trafalgar, were in being—would they not hold up their heads in admiration, and say, that the dawn of peace, and happiness, and tranquillity in Ireland, had arrived ; that justice was, at length,

about to be done to the country of those men who had been fighting the battles of the empire on the lower decks of the ships which they commanded? Sure he was, that the service of the Irish Catholics could not be forgotten by the Duke of Wellington—that their bravery, valour, and devotion, in fighting the battles of this country, could never leave his recollection; and their deeds must have been present to his mind, when he advised his sovereign, with so much honour to himself, and with such advantage to the empire, graciously to recommend their claims to the serious consideration of the legislature. For his own part, his Royal Highness said, that he had differed with the noble duke on one particular occasion, but that this difference should never alter his opinion as to what he had already done, or as to the great service which he was now rendering to his sovereign and the state. He recollected all the achievements of the noble duke, and the victories which he had won for his country from the period when he led on the first battalion at the storming of Seringapatam, down to the glorious day of Waterloo—that day, which for a length of time had closed the horoscope of Europe. The noble duke was a soldier; and when he bore in mind the regiments which fought under his command, he must consider that he was now only discharging a debt of gratitude which, as a soldier, he owed to those brave and gallant men, who had achieved his victories, and contributed to raise him to his present exalted situation. The noble Duke had brought forward the question when he possessed the full power to carry it—it was recommended in the speech from the throne; and it was announced at length from such high authority, that the thing could be done with perfect safety to the country; and it was his firm conviction, that it could be so done, not only consistently with the safety of the country, but to its future security and advantage. At present he had no more to say, but he trusted he had said enough to convince their lordships and the country, that he seriously intended to give his cordial support to those just measures of relief in favour of his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects. He should have, perhaps, a great deal more to say, when the subject came fully and regularly before their lordships. It was a question which he had long turned in his mind, and which he believed he had considered in every direction, and under every point of view in which it could possibly be considered; and his settled opinion on the subject, for many years, was that to which he had now given utterance. Here, it might be asked, if such had been his opinion, why had he not stated it earlier, in some of the numerous discussions which had taken place on the question? In answer he could simply reply, because the

measure had not been made a government measure. He felt no hesitation in calling on their lordships to look to his public conduct during the forty years that he had enjoyed the honour of a seat in that house; and he would ask any of them to point to any part of that conduct of which he should be ashamed. If he had erred at any time, he was sure that it would be conceded to him, he had erred with honour. He was ready to go through all the events of his public life, from the first time he mingled in public affairs; and he was willing to submit his conduct to the most rigid examination. He had commenced his early career on the benches of the opposition. After the year 1807, this was the third time that he had troubled their lordships with his opinions on a public occasion. When it pleased the Almighty to render it necessary for the present sovereign of these realms to assume the office of Regent, he (the Duke of Clarence) formed a resolution, that although he should not be satisfied with every thing that might occur, he would thenceforth give his support to his Majesty's ministers. To that resolution, he had hitherto adhered. On the Catholic question, he had always maintained the same opinion; but he did not come forward actively and openly to support the measure, not only because he said his Majesty's cabinet unfortunately divided upon it, but also because he saw that the measure itself was every year making way, and gaining new ground, and that it was every year acquiring such consequence, that the time was not far distant, when ministers would be compelled to make up their minds upon it; and he reserved the declaration of his own opinion until that period should have, as happily it now had, arrived. He thought it better and more befitting on his part to act thus, than to make that government, which was at all times arduous and difficult, still more difficult, by giving to it his opposition. Entertaining that opinion, he had acted accordingly. The noble duke at the head of affairs would recollect, his Royal Highness said, that he had expressed to him opinions similar to those which he had just delivered, at the period that he was removed from the high office which some time since he had the honour to fill. In a conversation which he then had with the noble duke, he expressed his sorrow that Catholic concession was still to be resisted, and that the government should continue divided in opinion upon that question, which, above all other questions, was one that involved the interests and safety of the country. He added, at the same time, that while such differences in the cabinet existed, the measure should not have his support; but still it was his opinion, that it ought to be carried. Thank God, the day had at length arrived for the carrying of this great and

healing measure of liberality and justice.—He was not in the secrets of the cabinet, but he trusted that whatever measure might be introduced, it would be found much less objectionable than was now supposed, particularly by the right reverend lords on the bench opposite. He trusted that before the measure was brought under their consideration, those right reverend prelates would seriously deliberate, duly weigh, and anxiously consider, in what way they ought to act—that they would keep in mind they were the ministers of peace—that they would consider whether the situation of Great Britain, which must and would be influenced by this important event—whether the situation of this country, and that of Europe at large, was not such, as, that different events, upon which none could calculate, might, at no distant day, be productive of war—that they would seriously ask themselves whether their persevering opposition to the claims of their Catholic countrymen, might not hasten such a crisis, or produce far worse, a civil war at home; and in such a case, how would they then dare to call themselves the ministers of peace? Let the right reverend prelates duly weigh these considerations, before they determined on opposing his Majesty's ministers. The royal Duke said, he would again repeat, that he knew not the exact nature of the measure which was to be introduced. It was sufficient for him, that the intention of bringing it forward had been announced; and he thanked his God that the measure of justice was at length about to be carried into effect, which would purify and tranquillize that dear, generous, and aggrieved country, whose rights had been so long withheld.

Some expressions in this speech, reflecting strongly upon the opponents of the proposed measures, produced an altercation between his Royal Highness and the Duke of Cumberland, who defended himself from the imputation of being actuated by factious motives, in his resistance to ministers: on this subject the Duke of Clarence replied, and pledged himself to support the measure throughout; but being seized with his old complaint, he was prevented from taking any further part in the debates; and in consequence of this indisposition, he was unable to attend the levee and drawing-room held by the King, after the bill had received the royal assent on the 13th of April.

Thus did the Duke of Wellington effectually complete a measure, which neither Pitt, Grenville, Fox, Grey, nor Canning could accomplish. On taking a retrospective view of this question, it appears that in 1805, a majority of one hundred and twenty-nine in the House of Lords, and of two hundred and twelve in the Commons, refused even to entertain the petition of the Catholics, which was introduced by Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox. In 1807, Earl Grey, then Lord Howick, endeavoured to gain the object by a side wind, but was defeated by the sagacity of the King. In 1808, Mr. Grattan's motion was rejected by a majority of one hundred and fifty-three ; and Lord Donoughmore's in the upper house, by a majority of eighty-seven. In 1810, the same members were again unsuccessful on a similar motion, by a majority of one hundred and twelve in the Commons, and eighty-six in the Lords. In 1812, they were once more defeated by a majority of seventy-two in the Lords, and eighty-five in the Commons. Mr. Canning was also defeated, in the same year, by a majority of one hundred and twenty-nine in the lower house, and the Marquis of Wellesley in the Lords by a majority of one. In 1813, Mr. Grattan and Sir John Cox Hipplesley were defeated in separate motions. In 1821, Mr, now Lord Plunkett, carried the bill through the House of Commons by a majority of nineteen, but it was lost in the Lords by a majority of thirty-nine. In 1822, Mr. Canning carried it by a majority of twenty-one, but it was thrown out in the Lords by a majority of forty-two. In 1825, Sir Francis Burdett carried it in the Commons by twenty-seven votes ; but it was rejected in the Lords by a majority of forty-eight. In 1827, Sir Francis's motion for a committee was lost by a majority of three. In 1828,

the motion for a conference with the Lords was carried in the Commons by a majority of six, but lost in the upper house by forty-five. But in 1829, a bill, unqualified in its character, and unshackled by restriction, was carried through the Commons, by Mr. Peel, with a majority of one hundred and eighty on the second reading, and one hundred and seventy-eight on the third: and through the Lords, by the Duke of Wellington, with a majority of one hundred and five on the second reading, and one hundred and four on the third.

A change so sudden in the opinions of certain members of both houses, who had hitherto been the staunchest opponents of the Catholic claims, astonished the world; and few could bring themselves to believe, that these right honourable, honourable, and right reverend personages acted upon conviction.

When the intelligence that the Catholic Emancipation Bill had been carried as a government measure, and obtained the royal assent, reached Rome, it was received with unbounded joy, which was expressed by a *Te Deum*, illuminations, and *fêtes-champêtres*.

On the 24th of June, the parliament was closed by commission; and the speech, delivered in the name of the sovereign, concluded thus:

“My Lords and Gentlemen.—His Majesty has commanded us to express his sincere hope, that the important measures which have been adopted by Parliament in the course of the present session, may tend, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to establish the tranquillity, and improve the condition, of Ireland; and that, by strengthening the bonds of union between the several parts of this great empire, they may consolidate and augment its power, and promote the happiness of his people.”

CHAPTER IX.

A.D. 1830.

IN the opening speech to parliament, on the 24th of February, 1830, the King, by his commissioners, expressed the satisfaction he felt at the conclusion of the war between Russia and the Porte. His Majesty further stated, that having recently concerted with his allies, measures for the pacification and final settlement of Greece, he trusted to be soon enabled to communicate the particulars of this arrangement, with such information as would explain the course that had been pursued throughout the progress of these important transactions.

The independence of Greece being now secured by the concession of the Turkish government, the next consideration was the choice of a sovereign for that country. After some delay, Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg was offered the new crown, which he accepted, and every preparation was made for his departure to Greece, where his presence could not be more eagerly expected by the people, than it had become urgently necessary for the general good. When, however, the terms of the settlement were brought to a close, and nothing appeared to prevent the carrying the whole into effect for the benefit of the Greeks, the public was surprised, on the 24th of May, by the communication of the Earl of Aberdeen, secretary of state for foreign affairs, to the House of Lords, that Prince Leopold had declined the proffered

crown of Greece. "From the 20th of February until within the last few days," his lordship said, "the delay in the prince's acceptance of the sceptre of Greece had been occasioned by pecuniary demands, which had at last been assented to; but on the 21st of the present month, his lordship had received an intimation from his Royal Highness, of his determination to relinquish the throne which he had so recently accepted."

To what cause this sudden revolution of sentiment was to be ascribed, could only be conjectured; but a clue to it was furnished on the same day, by the message presented from the King, informing Parliament that as it was inconvenient and painful to his Majesty, in consequence of severe indisposition, to sign public documents with his own hand, He recommended to Parliament the adoption of such measures as would give effect to such instruments without his signature, during his present illness.

This application produced an immediate act to supply the existing necessity, which at once evinced the dangerous state of the King, and explained the reason why Prince Leopold might now think his own presence more necessary in England than in Greece. Be the latter as it may, whatever hopes of the royal recovery had been previously entertained, they were dissipated by this legislative measure for the exercise of an indispensable function of the monarchy.

It was now evident, that the real state of the King had been carefully concealed from the public, and that his illness, from the beginning, was of a much more serious nature than the medical attendants chose to report. The first bulletin, announcing his Majesty's indisposition, was issued on the 13th of April; it stated that his

Majesty had suffered under a bilious attack, accompanied by a difficulty of breathing. No immediate alarm, however, was excited by this report, nor yet by the official postponement of the intended drawing-room, in honour of his Majesty's birthday, from the 23d of that month to the 7th of May. In the interim, the official accounts, though very cautiously drawn up, were insufficient to allay the fears of the public, that the real situation of the royal patient was one of imminent danger; which the indefinite adjournment of the customary ceremonials at court too plainly confirmed.

Every day increased the apprehension that there was a general breaking-up of the system; and the brief and guarded language of the medical reports only served to prepare the public for a fatal termination of the complaint with which his Majesty was afflicted. On the nature of that complaint, there were various rumours and surmises. Inflammation of the chest, gout in the stomach, dropsy, ossification of the heart, bile and asthma, were all brought in formidable array, as the host of enemies combined to destroy a constitution which, though naturally strong in itself, had certainly suffered by the irregularities of early life. For some years his Majesty had been subject to spasmodic affections, and periodical visits of the gout. These attacks in the preceding year were very frequent, and when the winter, which was a particularly severe one, advanced, symptoms of a dropsical character appeared, which were increased by the confinement of the King at Windsor Lodge, and the want of his usual daily exercise in the park. Still he preserved his wonted flow of spirits, gave directions respecting the improvements then in progress at the castle, looked forward to the celebration of his nominal

natal day with confidence, and transacted public business as long as he could bear the fatigue of attending to official details and explanations. His mental faculties, instead of being impaired by the accumulation of bodily disease, seemed to have acquired new power; and his memory, which had always been remarkably retentive, appeared to have lost nothing of its tenacity. Even when labouring under great pain and debility, he endeavoured to conceal his suffering, that he might avoid distressing the feelings of those around him; while to his chosen friends he assumed a forced semblance of cheerfulness, with the same kind and benevolent intention.

Throughout his long protracted illness, though the attendants in the royal chamber could not but observe how much the King inwardly endured, not a word of impatience or querulousness escaped his lips: and when, about the middle of June, the physicians felt it their duty to intimate that the power of medicine was at an end, the announcement drew from the illustrious patient the calm reply, "God's will be done."

The remedies that were still administered had for their object the alleviation of pain, and the procuring of sleep, but with no idea of arresting the progress of the malady. The cough, which latterly became more harassing, appeared to be occasioned by the impeded flow of blood through the left side of the heart, in consequence of which, it was thrown back upon the lungs, so as to produce congestion. Considerable portions of the lungs were consolidated, from the previous attacks of inflammation; and hence any additional affection increased the difficulty with which the respiratory organs performed their functions.

On Friday, the 25th of June, the physicians, perceiving that the royal patient was sinking rapidly, sent off instant notice, by express, to the Duke of Wellington. That night, his Majesty had some intervals of sleep; but about three o'clock on Saturday morning, the attendant was startled by the sudden rising up of the King from his pillow, with an exclamation indicating acute pain. A violent fit of coughing succeeded; and while he was in the arms of the physician, he ejaculated, "O God! I am dying." In a few minutes after, he faintly said, "This is death;" and expired.

Thus terminated, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, the reign of GEORGE THE FOURTH, after a period of actual sovereignty, including the regency, of near twenty years; during which Britain attained the summit of political greatness, and was distinguished, above all other nations, for the splendour of her establishments, the extent of her commerce, and the glory of her arms.

The history of this eventful reign was truly a long triumph, unparalleled in the English annals; and the most prejudiced of those who have rigorously reviewed the character of the man, have not dared to deny the claim of the monarch to national gratitude. George the Fourth, at his entrance upon the functions of government, found Europe involved in a general war; he left it in a state of universal peace, and that peace obtained by the wisdom of his councils, and the vigour of his measures. If, when Prince of Wales, the late King exposed himself to public reflection, by the levity of his conduct, and the impropriety of his connexions; he, like Henry the Fifth, made ample amends for those errors, on being called to the seat of authority. Notwithstanding this change, certain it is, that George the Fourth was much

more popular as a prince, while in the pursuit of pleasure, than when discharging the duties of his high station as a sovereign.

One reason for this might be, that experience having taught him the vanity of public applause, he no longer thought it worth while to court it by the display of his personal appearance. It has been justly observed, that there is much of the character of the Roman people in the English nation; they are unbounded in their gratitude, lavish in their rewards, profuse in the honours which they bestow on the objects of their regard; but that their favour is often gained before any claim to it has been honestly established. Hence the idol of the day may be frivolous or worthless, while the character that has merited distinction is despised and neglected. Great services are soon forgotten; and it is well indeed, if the man who has performed them is suffered to pass on to the end of life in tranquil repose. Sterling virtue, and exalted talent, are often branded with the most opprobrious epithets, and held up to public scorn, whenever factious and unprincipled demagogues, for their own base ends, shall judge it convenient to raise the outcry.

Of this versatility of popular favour, the late King had full experience; and hence, probably, it was, that, in the latter period of his life, when infirmities increased with age, he passed his time in greater retirement than is acceptable to the people of England. His secluded cottage in Windsor Park was his principal residence. And although vast sums were expended in repairing the castle, and also in erecting a new metropolitan palace, he only partially occupied the one, and never took possession of the other. He, likewise, seldom met Parliament in person, very rarely held courts, and scarcely ever

honoured the theatres with his presence. The chief recreation in which he indulged, was the solitary one of angling on the fine lake of Virginia Water, covering an extent of near one thousand acres within the precincts of Windsor Park. For his rides he made use of a pony phaeton, which he drove himself; but always chose the least frequented parts, and a servant went before to see that the way was clear.

In elegant accomplishments, George the Fourth has been rarely equalled; in personal graces, never excelled. His mind was highly cultivated. His benevolence was proverbial; and thousands have drank of the streams of his bounty, and been supported. His charity was real, and unmingled with ostentation. His manners were perfect. He was gentle, and easy of access; good-humoured and affable in conversation. His religious opinions were liberal; and his attention to the duties of devotion, regular and becoming. He was lively and agreeable in society, cheerful and warm-hearted at home. As a King, his name will live, in history, among the few who have deserved a nation's prayers and blessings, who have governed with fatherly affection and wise guardianship. Some of the triumphs of his reign rose out of circumstances; others may be attributed to the spirit of the times: but that spirit he fostered; those circumstances he directed for the general good. His share in the public business was more than kings in general take: the choice and support of his ministers was not the only qualification he displayed to govern wisely. His own views were always acted on; for though his ministers were truly the responsible advisers of the crown, they were not the crown itself. The advance of civil and religious liberty during the

reign of George the Fourth, will be one of the greatest glories of his era, and will shine with a pure lustre, equalled only by the brightest rays in the history of his predecessors. The King's devotion to the arts twines itself with the national history, but particularly with that of the city of London. The improvements wrought in the metropolis during this period are of the most extraordinary description; insomuch that it may be said of the late monarch, as it was of Augustus, that "he found his capital brick, and left it marble."

On Wednesday, the 14th of July, the royal remains lay in state, in the great drawing-room of Windsor Castle, which apartment, as well as the chambers leading to it, and the grand staircase, was hung with black cloth, and lined by Gentlemen Pensioners and Yeomen of the Guard. The royal body, covered with a purple velvet pall, adorned with escutcheons of the royal arms, and having the imperial crown of the United Kingdom, and the royal crown of Hanover, thereon, was placed under a canopy of the same colour; beneath which, and over the coffin, was suspended the royal standard; various banners being arranged on each side.

At eight o'clock on Thursday evening, the 15th, his present Majesty as chief mourner, took his seat at the head of the corpse, in a long purple cloak, and wearing the collars of the order of the Garter, that of St. Patrick, and of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic order. At nine o'clock, the procession moved through the state apartment, down the great staircase, and along the platform to St. George's Chapel, where the King took his seat in a chair of state, at the head of the corpse, the supporters standing on each side. The first part of the funeral office and anthem being performed, the body was

lowered into the vault, and the remainder of the service was read ; at the conclusion of which, Garter Principal King at Arms pronounced, near the grave, the usual proclamation, in these words :—

“ Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life, unto his Divine Mercy, the late Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, **GEORGE THE FOURTH**, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter ; King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenberg. Let us humbly beseech Almighty God to bless and preserve with long life, health and honour, and all worldly happiness, the Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, our Sovereign Lord, **WILLIAM THE FOURTH**, now, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter ; King of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick and Lunenberg. **GOD SAVE KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH !**”

After the funeral ceremony, the King retired to the Castle, but the Duke of Cumberland descended into the vault, and remained there near two hours, to see the remaining arrangements completed.

BOOK THE SIXTH.

ACCESSION OF WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

A. D. 1830.

As soon as the intelligence of the royal demise reached London, the cabinet met, and the privy counsellors were summoned. Shortly after, the King arrived at St. James's, from Bushy Park, and made the following declaration to the assembled council :—

“ I am convinced that you will fully participate in the affliction which I am suffering, on account of the loss of a Sovereign, under whose auspices, as Regent and as King, this country has maintained, during war, its ancient reputation and glory ; has enjoyed a long period of happiness and internal peace ; and has possessed the friendship, respect, and confidence of foreign powers.

“ In addition to that loss which I sustain in common with you, and with all who lived under the government of a most beneficent and gracious King, I have to lament the death of a beloved and affectionate brother, with whom I have lived from my earliest years in terms of the most cordial and uninterrupted friendship, and to whose favour and kindness I have been most deeply indebted.

After having passed my life in the service of my country, and having, I trust, uniformly acted as the most faithful subject and servant of the King, I am now called upon, under the dispensation of Almighty God, to administer the government of this great empire. I am fully sensible of the difficulties which I have to encounter ; but I possess the advantage of having witnessed the conduct of my revered Father, and my lamented and beloved brother ; and I rely with confidence

upon the advice and assistance of Parliament, and upon its zealous co-operation, in my anxious endeavours, under the blessing of the Divine Providence, to maintain the reformed religion established by law, to protect the rights and liberties, and to promote the prosperity and happiness, of all classes of my people."

His Majesty then took the usual oaths for the security of the Church of Scotland ; and signed such instruments as were requisite at the commencement of a new reign. He also, at the same time, re-appointed the judges and great officers of state, to the situations which had become vacant ; and he was further pleased to profess his intention to retain the present administration, without any change.

The ceremony of proclaiming the King being appointed to take place on Monday, the 28th, their Majesties arrived from Bushy Park at an early hour. The King was dressed in deep mourning, and wore a Garter blue sash over his shoulder. In the course of the morning, the court-yard of St. James's was crowded with carriages and a great number of spectators. Some persons in office, however, taking umbrage at the intrusion, ordered the Life-guards to disperse the people, and the porters to close the gates. On the arrival of the heralds and others, who were to form the procession, the King approached the window, and, finding the space below nearly vacant, which before had been thronged, he expressed his surprise, and asked what had become of the people ? When told that they were removed, his Majesty inquired, " By whose order ? " and, being dissatisfied with the answer, he instantly commanded the gates to be re-opened, and free admission given to the public, who received the kindness with loud cheers of gratitude.

At ten o'clock, the Park and Tower guns gave notice of the proclamation, which Sir George Nayler, Garter

King at arms, thus delivered, under the palace window, where their Majesties and royal attendants were assembled :—

“ WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God to call to his mercy our late Sovereign Lord, King George the Fourth, of blessed memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Prince William, Duke of Clarence ; we therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm, being here assisted with those of His late Majesty’s Privy Council, with numbers of other principal gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim, that the High and Mighty Prince William, Duke of Clarence, is now, by the death of the late Sovereign, of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege Lord, WILLIAM the FOURTH, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and so forth ; to whom we acknowledge all faith and constant obedience, with all humble and hearty affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless our Royal Prince WILLIAM the FOURTH with long and happy years, to reign over us. GOD SAVE THE KING.”

When Garter concluded, the trumpets sounded, and the air was rent with the acclamations of the assembled throng. The King appeared to be much affected by this expression of public feeling ; and some who had a near opportunity of observing him, saw the tear glistening in his eye, and silently stealing down his paternal cheek.

The procession now moved forward, amidst the roaring of the cannon, the ringing of bells, and the shouts of the multitudes collected in all the line of passage, to Charing Cross, where a halt was made, and the proclamation was repeated. It is not easy to conceive an idea of the imposing spectacle displayed at this widely-extended area. The streets and avenues branching from it were filled, as far as the eye could reach, by a dense population, intermingled with coaches and vehicles of every

description ; while the houses, from the basement to the roof, were covered with persons elegantly attired.

From Charing Cross, the cavalcade marched on to Temple Bar, where, the usual custom of knocking at the gates for admission being observed, the procession passed through to the corner of Chancery Lane, when the proclamation was read the third time. The next halt was at the corner of Wood-street, Cheapside, where the cross formerly stood ; and the ceremonial having been repeated there, the heralds proceeded to Cornhill ; and after proclaiming the King in front of the Royal Exchange, they concluded their offices at Aldgate.

On the following day, the Duke of Wellington in the upper, and Sir Robert Peel in the lower house of parliament, delivered the following message from the Crown :

“ WILLIAM R.

“ The King feels assured, that the House entertains a just sense of the loss which his Majesty and the country have sustained in the death of his Majesty’s lamented brother, the late King ; and that the House sympathizes with his Majesty in the deep affliction in which his Majesty is plunged by this mournful event. The King, taking into his serious consideration the advanced period of the session, and the state of public business, feels unwilling to recommend the introduction of any new matter, which, by its postponement, would tend to the detriment of the public service. His Majesty has adverted to the provisions of the law, which decree the termination of parliament within an early period after the demise of the crown ; and his Majesty being of opinion that it will be most conducive to the general convenience, and to the public interests of the country, to call, with as little delay as possible, a new parliament, his Majesty recommends to the House to make such temporary provisions as may be requisite for the public service in the interval that may elapse between the close of the present session and the meeting of another parliament.”

The Duke of Wellington, after passing a warm eulogium on the character of the late King, as the most

polished and enlightened sovereign of his time, concluded by proposing—

“That a humble address be presented to his Majesty, to assure him that we fully participate in the severe affliction his Majesty was suffering on account of the loss he had sustained in the death of the late King, his Majesty’s brother, of blessed and glorious memory; that we shall ever remember, with affectionate gratitude, that our late sovereign, under circumstances of unexampled difficulty, maintained the ancient glory of this country in war, and, during a period of long duration, secured to his people the inestimable blessing of internal concord and external peace; to offer to his Majesty our humble and heartfelt congratulations on his Majesty’s accession to the throne; to assure his Majesty of our loyal devotion to his sacred person; and to express an entire confidence, founded on our experience of his Majesty’s beneficent character, that, animated by sincere love for the country, which he had served from his earliest years, he will, under the favour of Divine Providence, direct all his efforts to the maintenance of the reformed religion established by law; to the protection of the rights and liberties, and to the advancement of the happiness and prosperity, of all classes of his Majesty’s faithful people.”

This address, as well as a corresponding one moved by Secretary Peel in the Commons, passed unanimously; but when a motion for another, in answer to that part of the message which related to the intention of dissolving the present, and calling a new parliament, was proposed, an opposition arose, on the plea of its being necessary to take into consideration the possible contingency of the demise of the crown; in which case a regency must be appointed, while no parliament was existing to supply the deficiency. The reasoning was plausible, but it failed of effect; and the addresses were carried up to the throne.

On Saturday, the third of July, his Majesty held his first court at St. James’s, when a vast number of public functionaries, foreign ministers, and nobility, attended, to pay their respects to the new sovereign. Among others

who appeared in the splendid circle, was the Viscount Combermere, who had but recently arrived from India, bringing with him, as a present to the late King, a picture of the Sultan of Delhi, his three sons, and grandson, highly finished and elegantly adorned. His lordship was also the bearer of a letter from the same monarch to the King of England, contained in a purse of gold.

The next day being Sunday, his Majesty came to town from Bushy, to attend divine service at the Chapel Royal. After a sermon, preached by the Bishop of London, the King received the sacrament, accompanied by several dignitaries of the church, and members of the royal family. At the conclusion of the solemnity, his Majesty received the archbishops and bishops in the royal closet, and professed to them his unalterable attachment to the Protestant religion, and determined resolution to support the established church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a short speech, in behalf of himself and his brethren, made a suitable reply.

After this, his Majesty received the judges in the great council chamber of the palace, and complimented them on their upright administration of law and justice. Lord Tenterden, the chief justice of the king's bench, returned thanks, in the name of all his learned brothers, for the good opinion which the King had been pleased to express of their conduct.

After the royal funeral, on the 15th, their Majesties slept at Windsor; and the next day the King went over the whole establishment, gave orders for its future management, conversed with the domestics on the length of their respective services, and threw out such hints of retrenchment, especially in the culinary department,

as excited considerable alarm among some of the pampered menials.

The same day, the dean and chapter of Windsor attended at the Castle, with an address of condolence and congratulation. On this occasion, the King, observing Dr. Keat, master of Eton School, among the canons, said, "Dr. Keat, I have to beg it as a favour, that you will indulge your boys with an additional week's holidays at this season." The preceptor bowed assent, and thus the scholars gained a fortnight's relaxation from their academic exercises, instead of the ordinary allowance.

Early the next morning, his Majesty set off for St. James's palace, to receive, on the throne, the address of the lord mayor, aldermen, and corporation of the city of London. On the 19th, the King inspected the Coldstream regiment of Guards, in St. James's park; after which he held a chapter of the Thistle, for the purpose of investing the Duke of Sussex with the insignia of that order. This ceremony being concluded, the deputations of the two universities were introduced, successively, with their addresses, which, as usual, were received on the throne. After the learned members had kissed hands, and were retiring, the King surprised them, by desiring them to stay till they had been introduced to the Queen. Soon after, her Majesty appeared, took possession of the throne, and the academical gentlemen obtained the honour of kissing the Queen's hand, as they had before that of her august consort. This being an unprecedented circumstance, occasioned much agreeable surprise.

On the 20th, the King, accompanied by her Majesty, inspected the 1st and 2d battalions of the 3d Guards;

and, after the parade was over, they went, with a numerous train, to visit the exhibition of the Royal Academy at Somerset House, where they remained above two hours.

The next day, his Majesty, with the Queen, inspected the two regiments of Life Guards; after which they breakfasted at Apsley House, with the Duke of Wellington. From thence the royal party returned to the palace, where the King held his first levee since his accession. Among the eminent persons now presented, were the two newly-created field-marshal, Sir Alured Clarke, and Sir Samuel Hulse: the former, in particular, attracted general notice, on account of his athletic appearance, and the firmness with which he approached the throne; though he had passed the age of fourscore years and ten, above seventy of which had been spent in active service.

At the same time, his Majesty was pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on two distinguished characters, Martin Archer Shee, Esq. president of the Royal Academy, and James South, Esq. one of the first astronomers of the age. To Mr. Shee, the King, on his late visit to the Academy, gave an assurance of taking the arts under his immediate patronage; and, therefore, desired him to state, in what manner efficient aid could be best applied for that purpose.

The royal favour to Mr. South was only the fulfilment of what had been intended by his late Majesty, as appears from the following letter of Sir Robert Peel:—

“ Whitehall, July 10th.

“ DEAR SIR,—The demise of his late Majesty, and the extraordinary press of public and parliamentary business, have compelled me to defer a communication, which I should otherwise have made to you at an earlier period.

“ Shortly before the death of the late King, his Majesty signified to me his intention (if he should recover from the severe illness by which he was then afflicted) of taking the first opportunity of marking his high sense of your honourable and disinterested zeal in the cause of science, and especially of your unwearied and successful exertions to perfect and increase our knowledge of the position, distances, and relations of the heavenly bodies.

“ The King commands me to inform you, that he shall have great satisfaction in confirming the intentions of his lamented brother, and in bestowing some mark of royal favour upon one who has rendered such signal service to practical navigators.

“ His Majesty desires, therefore, that you will attend at the levee, either on the 21st or 28th of this month ; on which occasion his Majesty proposes to confer upon you publicly the honour of knighthood.

“ I have the honour to be, dear sir,

“ Your obedient and faithful servant,

“ ROBERT PEEL.”

“ *James South, Esq. Observatory, Kensington.*”

This letter was accompanied by another, communicating the information that his Majesty had been pleased to place at the disposal of Sir James South, a pension of three hundred pounds annually, for the further cultivation of science.

On the morning after the levee, there was a royal inspection of the 1st and 2d battalions of the Grenadier Guards, each officer and private having oak leaves in their caps, in commemoration of the battle of Salamanca. Of this, the King did not fail to take notice ; and, after the review, his Majesty paid the corps an elegant compliment for their valour and discipline. When the Guards went off the ground, the position was taken up by the 9th Lancers, under the command of the Earl of Rosslyn ; and after going through some fine evolutions, the officers formed a square, and were presented to his Majesty. These military spectacles attracted a vast number of persons, many of

whom, however, committed much mischief in pulling up the young trees, and dismantling the great mortar of its chevaux-de-frise.

On Friday the 23d, his Majesty went in state to the House of Lords, where, being seated on the throne, and the Commons, with their speaker, assembled, the King delivered the following gracious speech :

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ ON this first occasion of meeting you, I am desirous of repeating to you in person my cordial thanks for those assurances of sincere sympathy and affectionate attachment which you conveyed to me on the demise of my lamented brother, and my accession to the throne of my ancestors. I ascend that throne with a deep sense of the sacred duties which devolve upon me ; with a firm reliance on the affection of my faithful subjects, and on the support and co-operation of Parliament ; and with an humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that he will prosper my anxious endeavours to promote the happiness of a free and loyal people. It is with the utmost satisfaction that I find myself enabled to congratulate you upon the general tranquillity of Europe. This tranquillity it will be the object of my constant endeavours to preserve ; and the assurances which I receive from my allies, and from all foreign powers, are dictated in a similar spirit. I trust that the good understanding which prevails upon subjects of common interest, and the deep concern which every state must have in maintaining the peace of the world, will insure the satisfactory settlement of those matters which still remain to be finally arranged.

“ GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“ I thank you for the supplies which you have granted, and for the provision which you have made for several branches of the public service, during that part of the present year which must elapse before a new Parliament can be assembled. I cordially congratulate you on the diminution which has taken place in the expenditure of the country ; on the reduction of the charge of the public debt ; and on the relief which you have afforded to my people by the repeal of some of those taxes which have heretofore pressed heavily upon them. You may rely upon my prudent and economical administration of the supplies which you have placed at my disposal, and upon my readi-

ness to concur in every diminution of the public charges which can be effected consistently with the dignity of the crown, the maintenance of national faith, and the permanent interests of the country.

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I cannot put an end to this session, and take my leave of the present Parliament, without expressing my most cordial thanks for the zeal which you have manifested on so many occasions for the welfare of my people. You have wisely availed yourselves of the happy opportunity of general peace and internal repose, calmly to review many of the laws and judicial establishments of the country; and you have applied such cautious and well-considered reforms, as are consistent with the spirit of our venerable institutions, and are calculated to facilitate and expedite the administration of justice. You have removed the civil disqualifications which affected numerous and important classes of my people. While I declare, on this solemn occasion, my fixed intention to maintain, to the utmost of my power, the Protestant reformed religion established by law, let me at the same time express my earnest hope, that the animosities which have prevailed on account of religious distinctions may be forgotten, and that, the decision of Parliament with respect to those distinctions having been irrevocably pronounced, my faithful subjects will unite with me in advancing the great object contemplated by the legislature, and in promoting that spirit of domestic concord and peace which constitutes the surest basis of our national strength and happiness.”

On the following day, the Parliament was dissolved by proclamation.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1830.

THE activity of the new sovereign of these realms at this period astonished all who were not acquainted with his previous habits. One who had the best opportunities of observation, gave this account of his Majesty just after his accession : “ He rises at six o’clock, at which hour the messengers from the different government offices are appointed to be in attendance, when, with the assistance of his secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor, he gets through the despatches with incredible celerity, and immediately forwards the bearers of them on their return.”

At this time two royal visitors to their Majesties arrived ; Prince Frederick of Prussia, and the King of Wurtemberg. The latter came over from Boulogne, attended by Colonel Fitzclarence ; and on Saturday the 24th, a grand dinner was given at St. James’s palace, in honour of the illustrious strangers. Early the next morning, the two monarchs and the young prince went to Windsor ; and, after viewing the beauties of that magnificent palace, and the surrounding scenery, they returned to dine with the Duke of Wellington.

On Monday the 26th, a grand review of the household and other troops took place in Hyde Park. The spectacle was uncommonly splendid ; and though the number of spectators was immense, perfect order was preserved, and few accidents occurred. At eleven o’clock his majesty, accompanied by the Queen, the King of

Wurtemberg, the royal Dukes and their respective suites entered the ground amid a grand salute, and the review began under the command of Lord Combermere. On leaving the park, their Majesties and train visited Apsley house, where an elegant entertainment was provided. The attention of the crowd was now directed to that quarter; and soon after, the Queen, attended by the Duke of Wellington, appeared in the balcony, when she was received with loud and reiterated cheers. On her Majesty's retiring, the King came forward, and was greeted in like manner. Another instance of the kind and condescending disposition of the Queen must here be mentioned: at the end of the review, when a tremendous press of the multitude took place, occasioned by the rapid approach of the Life Guards, a respectable woman in a state of terror fled for protection to the royal carriage. On recovering from her fright, she was astonished to find herself supported by the Queen, who led her to a place of safety, nor parted from her till the King, on observing the circumstance, directed Colonel Fitzclarence to take the woman under his care. His Majesty also cautioned the soldiers to avoid endangering the persons of the people by their impetuosity. On leaving Apsley house, his Majesty proceeded to the palace, to hold a grand Chapter of the Garter, at which the King of Wurtemberg was admitted into the order, with peculiar marks of distinction. At the conclusion of the ceremonial, a magnificent dinner was served up, in the banqueting-room, to all the knights present at the Chapter, the foreign ambassadors, and other persons of consequence.

The next morning, his Majesty, with the King of Wurtemberg, went to Woolwich, and, after going over the

arsenal, and inspecting the royal artillery, they partook of an elegant collation at the noble barracks of that corps.

On Wednesday, the 28th, the King held his second levee, which exceeded the former in the number and splendour of the company. Among the addresses presented, that from Brighton was marked by a curious incident. After returning a suitable reply, his Majesty said aloud to the gentlemen of the deputation, "Tell the good people of Brighton, that I shall soon be with them."

Another instance of royal frankness at this levee was the reception of Sir Robert Wilson, who had just been restored to the rank of which he had been deprived in the preceding reign, for assisting the escape of Lavalette from prison at Paris. As soon as the gallant general began to express his acknowledgments for this act of favour, he was interrupted by the King, who, taking him by the hand, said, "Sir Robert, don't thank me : I never tell an untruth—Your restoration was so strongly recommended to me by my ministers, that it was my duty to comply ; for, God forbid that I should ever stand in the way of the favours of the crown towards a meritorious officer. I have now the satisfaction of congratulating you on your restoration, because I know that, if ever your services are wanted, I shall find in you a brave officer and a loyal subject."

On Thursday the 29th, their Majesties went to Bushy Park, the rangership of which was now bestowed upon the Queen for her life. In the course of the day, the royal party visited the village of Teddington, where they experienced a most hearty welcome. Arches, constructed of flowers and evergreens, were erected at the principal

entrances ; and beautiful silken banners, bearing the royal arms and appropriate devices of loyalty, were displayed in all directions.

On the 5th of August, the King and Queen went in state to the Tower, and, after inspecting the garrison, and partaking of a collation with the Duke of Wellington, they proceeded down the river to Greenwich Hospital ; where they were received by the governor, Sir Richard Keats. His Majesty, dressed in the uniform of an admiral, here inspected the royal marines and pensioners ; after which, he went over the whole of that noble establishment, and at six o'clock returned to town.

The following morning, the royal party honoured Sir Herbert Taylor with a visit in the Regent's Park ; and, after examining the chapel and almshouses of St. Katherine's College, of which Sir Herbert is master, they sat down to an elegant *dejeune*. The same evening, the King gave a grand dinner, at St. James's, to the corporation of the Trinity House, of which his Majesty, at the time of his accession, was the master.

At the beginning of the next week, the family circle was enlivened by the arrival of the Princess Elizabeth, Landgravine of Hesse Homberg, accompanied by her brother, the Duke of Cambridge, and his son Prince George. On Monday the 16th, the King, agreeably to his promise, went to Brighton, where he was met by thousands of joyful spectators, who attended him all the way to the Pavilion ; and in the evening the town was illuminated. His Majesty, on this occasion, avoided all parade, and gave express orders that the military should not make their appearance. On entering the town, however, observing two gentlemen of the Guards dressed in their uniform, among the crowd, he waved his hand from

the carriage, and said, "Officers, wheel off?" The mandate was promptly obeyed. The next morning, his Majesty went over the palace and the gardens, for the improvement of which he gave several directions. Happening, in the course of this survey, to step outside the building, the assembled people, supposing that he was about to take a walk, retired to a short distance: upon which his Majesty courteously said, "You need not fall back; I am not going any further." The next day, the residents of Brighton, and the numerous visitors at that fashionable watering-place, were greatly surprised by the sudden departure of the King; but they were consoled under their disappointment, by the information that his return with the Queen might shortly be expected.

Desirous as the Sovereign was to gratify his subjects, he did not always meet with a proper return for his kindness. One of the first acts of condescension in this reign, was the announcement of an intention to open the parks in the metropolis, and the terrace at Windsor, to the public. Admission to the latter was accordingly given to the people at the beginning of August, and the Long Walk was in consequence crowded. The privilege, however, was soon grossly abused in various ways: some rude persons climbed up, to look in at the windows of the state apartments; others trampled on the grass, stripped the leaves from the orange trees, and the King himself saw a man scratching his name on one of the fine marble statues. This was past endurance; and his Majesty observed, "I shall be compelled, however reluctantly, to do as my brother did—exclude the people from this part—if such conduct is continued."

When their Majesties went to reside at Windsor, orders were left for the free admission of the public to



Drawn by T. Allen.

Engraved by W. Taylor.

QUEEN'S LODGE, BUSBY PARK.

the interior of the house at Bushy, as well as to the Park. The inhabitants of Hampton upon this presented an address to the King, in which, after expressing their loyal attachment to his person, they introduced, with much propriety and feeling, their satisfaction at the appointment of the Queen to the rangership ; and their grateful sense of the favours which they had enjoyed from the residence of their Majesties at Bushy Park. The King appeared much moved by this address, and emphatically observed, in his reply, that as her Majesty, in the natural course of events, would be resident with them long after he should himself have quitted this life, and knowing her strong attachment to the place, he had thought it his duty to consult her wishes, which he was convinced would be beneficial to the people of that neighbourhood. In grateful respect for this benevolence, the people of Hampton entered into a subscription to celebrate his Majesty's birth-day yearly, by appropriate festivities, and an entertainment to the poor.

At Windsor, a design was formed to honour the natal day of the Queen by giving a feast to the humble classes of the inhabitants. When his Majesty was apprised of this intention, he signified a wish to be present at the entertainment, and desired that the festive scene should be deferred till the commemoration of his own birth-day ; the banquet was accordingly adjourned till the 21st of August. The morning opened delightfully ; the shops were generally closed ; and the gate, at the entrance of the long walk leading to the castle, was ornamented with flags and laurels. At about half past two, their Majesties, and almost the whole of the Royal Family, entered the walk, and appeared much pleased with the arrangements. The tables had been previously covered with boiled and roast beef

and mutton, roast veal, hams, and plum-puddings. The King, on arriving at the middle table, made a stop while grace was said. He then proceeded, amid the heartfelt acclamations of the spectators, and the people sat down to their repast. The whole number consisted of above three thousand ; of whom there were fifty at each table. As soon as the company was seated, the bands of the two regiments then stationed at Windsor commenced playing. A more pleasing spectacle could not be conceived than that which was now exhibited, in the happy countenances of fathers, mothers, and children, with the perfect order and propriety of demeanour of the whole assembly. The evening was equally favourable for the illuminations and fireworks, which were of the most splendid description. The bells rang merrily the whole day ; and the streets were crowded. In the evening, their Majesties entertained in St. George's Hall about two hundred persons of distinction ; among whom were most of the cabinet and foreign ministers. The day was also distinguished as a public festival throughout the kingdom, and in most places the poor were made partakers of the general joy, by the bounty of their opulent neighbours.

The following instances of the kind feeling and prompt liberality of the King, at this time, are characteristic, but not extraordinary. On hearing that the widow of Sir George Hoste had been left in embarrassed circumstances, his Majesty, without being solicited, sent a message to her ladyship, with the information, that a suite of apartments would be prepared for her reception in the palace of Hampton Court.

Another widowed lady, of infirm health, who resided in that royal asylum, had for some time been endeavouring, but in vain, to get the name of her only

daughter included in the patent of residence. His Majesty was no sooner made acquainted with the circumstance, than he immediately hastened, in person, to cheer the widow with an assurance that her wish should be gratified ; and the desired alteration in the patent was accordingly made.

Another act of generosity displayed at this time by the Sovereign, was that of presenting to the Zoological Society, for their garden in the Regent's Park, the collection of animals that had belonged to the late King, consisting of one hundred and fifty beasts and birds, of great value.

On Monday, the 30th of August, their Majesties, with the Landgravine of Hesse Homburg and the Princess Augusta, left Windsor for Brighton. During their stay on the coast, the royal party made excursions to several places in the vicinity. In a visit to Lewes, the King was addressed by Sir John Shelley, one of the representatives of the borough, who, among other observations, mentioned it as a remarkable circumstance, that the town had not received a sovereign within its walls for the space of six hundred years. His Majesty replied as follows :

“In returning an answer to that which you, Sir, have just spoken, I cannot help noticing, in the first place, that expression which you have just now made use of, that you thank me for the bestowment of my time upon the present occasion. In looking back upon the blessings which this country possesses, and in feeling grateful for them, it is always to be remembered that our time is to be devoted to those duties which belong to us in our several stations of life, in order that we may enjoy all those blessings entire whilst we live, and hand them down unimpaired to those by whom we shall be succeeded. I can assure you, that I feel always, and it is a principle firmly fixed upon my mind, that the time of the sovereign is due to the nation over which he is called to reign ; and that my time is always well bestowed, in furthering the happiness and interests of the people.

“It certainly is a circumstance well worthy of remark, that so long a period as six hundred years should have elapsed since last a king of this country has been present in this ancient and loyal borough. My lamented brother, his late Majesty, who, where he was most known, was always best beloved, having, from the state of his health, been unable to see so much of his subjects in this neighbourhood as he otherwise undoubtedly would have done; it is gratifying to me, in that station in which Providence has now placed me, to have an opportunity of so doing.

“By a late arrangement, it has been provided, that, whatever property any monarch of this country may purchase, at his decease shall, if not otherwise disposed of by will, become the property of his successor. In this way, the palace at Brighton, the property of his late Majesty, has come into the possession of the crown; and it is particularly gratifying to me, connected and conversant as I have been from my early youth with naval affairs, that this, which may be called a naval palace, should, at my accession, have first become the property of the crown.

“I have been so frequently in this neighbourhood, and in the former part of my life spent so much time in this county, that I can never at any time consider myself a stranger in it, but as residing in a county to which I have long and happily been accustomed.

“Intending annually to live some considerable portion of time in it, I have commanded that the militia of the county shall bear in future the name of the Royal Sussex Militia; a name which I have great pleasure in bestowing, and which, I believe, is usual, where a royal residence is for any length of time established. I have always been attached to agricultural pursuits; and I need scarcely say to you, gentlemen of Sussex, that this county is highly interesting to every lover of agriculture, not only from its productive soil, but from that excellent breed of sheep, which may, perhaps, be considered as the best which England any where produces. I consider the county of Sussex as also one of the best conducted, most loyal, and exemplary counties in the kingdom.

“I feel great gratification, gentlemen, in the visit which I am paying to this town; I accept with pleasure the manifestations of loyalty and regard which have been made to me; and I conclude by wishes for the welfare of the inhabitants, by thanking you, and by drinking to your continuance in good health.”

After a short pause, the King again spake, and added as follows :

“ There is, gentlemen, one point which I have passed over, but of which it was my intention to have taken notice. You have drunk the health of her Majesty the Queen; and in returning you my thanks, I meant to have done the same on her part also. Among the many favourable circumstances under which Providence has called me to ascend the throne of this country, there is none for which I feel more grateful, upon which I set a higher value, than that it had previously been my happy fortune to be married to an individual, so excellent in every amiable and good feeling. In this country, character finds its way forth into the world, and is always known; I have no doubt, therefore, that you are already well aware of what I would say; but I must take the opportunity of speaking what I am most sincerely convinced of—that her Majesty, who sits before you, possesses every estimable quality calculated to give worth and lustre to her exalted station. Of this I am satisfied also, that a great share of that good and kind feeling which has been so largely manifested towards me, since I have occupied the throne, has not only been due to her estimable qualities, but has strictly and truly been exhibited and paid on account of that sense which is entertained of them.”

This speech was listened to with profound attention, and made a deep impression upon the company. Her Majesty also was observed to be much moved by the affectionate manner in which the King had spoken of his connubial happiness, and that in her presence. It was impossible, indeed, for any one to be present at such an interesting scene, and not feel sentiments of profound admiration for two august personages, who appeared formed by Providence to exhibit in their own persons a bright example of conjugal felicity to the rest of the world.

CHAPTER III.

A.D. 1830.

WHILE Britain was thus exhibiting the pleasing spectacle of harmonic affection between the monarch and the people, the continent of Europe was unfolding scenes of an opposite character. France, which for nearly half a century had been the theatre of popular commotions, and the disturber of the world, was but just settling into a state of repose, when a new revolution arose, occasioned by three rigid ordinances of Charles the Tenth and his ministers: one against the periodical press; another for the dissolution of the chamber of deputies; and the third annulling the law of elections.

These imprudent measures having been followed up by a military attempt to shut up the obnoxious printing-offices and coffee-houses, produced an insurrection at Paris; which, after an anarchy of three days, ended in the dethronement of the king, and his flight to the coast, where he and his family embarked, with the intention of seeking an asylum in the hospitable island which had formerly sheltered himself and his unfortunate line from revolutionary persecution.

Great, however, was the mortification of the royal exile, at being refused a landing on his arrival at Spit-head; nor is it easy to discover any reason for the denial in the first instance. Afterwards, indeed, the expatriated prince and his relatives were suffered to take up their

residence at Lulworth Castle, in Dorsetshire ; but whether the fugitives did not think themselves secure in that retreat, or the British government was unwilling to give umbrage to the new authority, by allowing the presence of the deprived monarch almost within sight of the French shore ; so it was, that the old king shortly removed to Holyrood House, at Edinburgh, where, in all probability, his eventful history, and that of his dynasty, will, like the Stuart race, come to an end.

Shortly after the expulsion of the Bourbon family, the vacant throne was filled by Louis Philippe, duke of Orleans, son of Philippe Egalité, of revolutionary celebrity. It remains here to be stated, that the last act of a great public nature performed by Charles the Tenth was the reduction of Algiers, and the annexation of that state with its dependeneies to the crown of France. What may be the effects of this conquest and establishment, either as regards Africa, or the commerce of the Mediterranean sea, must be left to more sober times, if such shall ever occur, to determine.

The revolution in France soon spread its contagious influence into other countries. Belgium first caught the infection ; and at the latter end of August, an explosion took place at Brussels, in the destruction of the government printing-office. This was only the prelude to more sanguinary outrages, the objects of which were the Dutch authorities, and all those persons who favoured the union of Holland and Flanders under one head. A separation of the two countries was now openly proclaimed, and the ancient standard of Brabant hoisted, in token of independence. In consequence of these proceedings, the king convened the states-general, by whom it was resolved, that the insurrection should be put down

by force. Accordingly, Prince Frederick, his majesty's second son, marched with a body of Dutch forces against Brussels ; but after four days' hard fighting in the streets at a great disadvantage, his highness was obliged to abandon the city with a great loss. The insurrection now became almost universal throughout Flanders ; and at the beginning of October, the hereditary Prince of Orange, as lieutenant-general of the Flemish provinces, removed the seat of government to Antwerp. Here he issued a proclamation, announcing that the separation of the two parts of the kingdom was acknowledged, and that he should take upon himself the sovereignty of Belgium. To this declaration, no respect was paid ; and the King of the Netherlands was so displeased with what his son had done, that he revoked his commission.

Such was the agitated state of things in that quarter, at the close of the year ; nor were the British dominions without disturbances. After harvest, the labouring peasantry committed, in various places, violent depredations upon the property of the farmers, by breaking in pieces the machinery used in agriculture, and setting fire to barns, stacks of corn, and, in some parts, even to dwelling houses.

Under this gloomy aspect of affairs, foreign and domestic, the first parliament of this reign was opened on Tuesday, the 2nd of November, when his Majesty delivered the following speech from the throne :

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ It is with great satisfaction that I meet you in parliament, and that I am enabled, in the present conjuncture, to recur to your advice. Since the dissolution of the late parliament, events of deep interest and importance have occurred on the continent of Europe. The elder branch of the House of Bourbon no longer reigns in France ; and the Duke of Orleans

has been called to the throne, by the title of King of the French. Having received from the new sovereign a declaration of his earnest desire to cultivate the good understanding, and to maintain inviolate all the engagements subsisting with this country, I did not hesitate to continue my diplomatic relations and friendly intercourse with the French court.—I have witnessed with deep regret the state of affairs in the Low Countries. I lament that the enlightened administration of the king should not have preserved his dominions from revolt; and that the wise and prudent measure of submitting the desires and complaints of his people to the deliberation of an extraordinary meeting of the states-general, should have led to no satisfactory result. I am endeavouring, in concert with my allies, to devise such means of restoring tranquillity as may be compatible with the good government of the Netherlands, and with the future security of other states.—Appearances of tumult and disorder have produced uneasiness in different parts of Europe: but the assurances of a friendly disposition, which I continue to receive from all foreign powers, justify the expectation that I shall be enabled to preserve for my people the blessings of peace.—Impressed at all times with the necessity of respecting the faith of national engagements, I am persuaded that any determination to maintain, in conjunction with my allies, those general treaties by which the political system of Europe has been established, will offer the best security for the repose of the world.—I have not yet accredited my ambassador to the court of Lisbon; but the Portuguese government, having determined to perform a great act of justice and humanity, by the grant of a general amnesty, I think that the time will shortly arrive when the interests of my subjects will demand a renewal of those relations which had so long existed between the two countries.—I am impelled by the deep solicitude which I feel for the welfare of my people, to recommend to your immediate consideration the provisions which it may be advisable to make for the exercise of the royal authority, in case that it should please Almighty God to terminate my life before my successor shall have arrived at years of maturity.

“I shall be prepared to concur with you in the adoption of those measures which may appear best calculated to maintain unimpaired the stability and dignity of the crown, and thereby to strengthen the securities by which the civil and religious liberties of my people are guarded.”

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“I have ordered the estimates for those services of the present year, for which the last parliament did not fully provide,

to be forthwith laid before you. The estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with that strict regard to economy which I am determined to enforce in every branch of the public expenditure.—By the demise of my lamented brother, the late King, the civil list revenue has expired. I place, without reserve, at your disposal my interest in the hereditary revenues, and in those funds which may be derived from droits of the crown or admiralty, from the West India duties, or from any casual revenues, either in my foreign possessions, or in the United Kingdom. In surrendering to you my interest in revenues which have in former settlements of the civil list been reserved to the crown, I rejoice in the opportunity of evincing my entire reliance on your dutiful attachment, and my confidence that you will cheerfully provide all that may be necessary for the support of the civil government, and the honour and dignity of my crown.”

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I deeply lament that, in some districts of the country, the property of my subjects has been endangered by combinations for the destruction of machinery, and that serious losses have been sustained through the acts of wicked incendiaries. I cannot view, without grief and indignation, the efforts which are industriously made to excite among the people a spirit of discontent and disaffection, and to disturb the concord which happily prevails between those parts of my dominion, the union of which is essential to their common strength and common happiness. I am determined to exert, to the utmost of my power, all the means which the law and constitution have placed at my disposal for the punishment of sedition, and for the prompt suppression of outrage and disorder. Amidst all the difficulties of the present conjuncture, I reflect, with the highest satisfaction, on the loyalty and affectionate attachment of the great body of my people. I am confident that they justly appreciate the full advantage of that happy form of government, under which, through the favour of Divine Providence, this country has enjoyed, for a long succession of years, a greater share of internal peace, of commercial prosperity of true liberty, of all that constitutes social happiness, than has fallen to the lot of any other country in the world. It is the great object of my life to preserve these blessings to my people, and to transmit them unimpaired to posterity; and I am animated in the discharge of the sacred duty which is committed to me, by the firmest reliance on the wisdom of parliament, and on the cordial support of my faithful and loyal subjects.”

It merits observation, that this speech, as well as that delivered from the throne at the close of the preceding parliament, was actually written by the King himself; but subject, of course, to the revision of the cabinet council.

The usual addresses were carried in both houses, though not without an evident presage of a vigorous opposition to ministers, on the subjects of reform and retrenchment. In regard to the latter object, every assurance was given on the part of Government, that reduction of expense and taxation would be effected as far as might be practicable and proper. On the other point, the Duke of Wellington went beyond his wonted prudence and cautious reserve, by saying, that "ministers were not prepared to introduce any measure for a reform in parliament. He had never heard (he said) any sufficient reason to induce him to think that the representation of the people in parliament could be materially improved by reform, or rendered more satisfactory to the nation. For reform in parliament, he confessed, he was not prepared, because he did not think it expedient; and should it come under discussion whilst he continued in his present post, as a public man, he should feel it his duty to resist it."

Mr. Secretary Peel, though he did not speak out in the same fearless tone and uncompromising language as his great chief, yet professed that he saw difficulties about the question of reform, which he was by no means prepared to solve. He wished, nevertheless, to say nothing then, which might in any degree prejudice the discussion hereafter, or interfere with its advancement to a satisfactory termination."

These declarations were sufficient to spread the flame of discontent, which had already been kindled against

the administration; and the consequences were soon made apparent, both in and out of parliament, by formidable combinations to embarrass the Government and thwart its measures. At this critical moment, a circumstance occurred, which served to increase the unpopularity of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. The King had promised, some time before the meeting of parliament, to honour the feast at Guildhall, on Lord Mayor's day, with his royal presence; and great were the preparations of the citizens on the approach of that civic festival. But while indulging their expectations with the pleasure they should receive from the visit of their Majesties, the inhabitants of the metropolis were suddenly mortified by the publication, on Sunday evening, the 7th, of a letter from Sir Robert Peel to the Corporation; in which the minister said, "From information which has been recently received, there is reason to apprehend that, notwithstanding the devoted loyalty and affection borne to his Majesty by the citizens of London, advantage would be taken of an occasion which must necessarily assemble a vast number of persons by night, to create tumult and confusion, and thereby to endanger the properties and the lives of his Majesty's subjects." This letter was placarded throughout the metropolis, and circulated in every quarter. The events of the preceding week had shewn, that amongst the lowest of the populace there was a disposition to mischief, directed especially against the new police and the Duke of Wellington. This was particularly manifested on the return of the King from the House of Lords on Tuesday, as well as on his previous visits to the two theatres. Those indications of hostile feeling against the prime minister, and the constabulary force, naturally

gave rise to apprehensions, in the minds of many persons, that, notwithstanding the deserved popularity of their Majesties, and the feelings of joy which the royal visit would excite in the great mass of their loyal subjects, the presence of ministers in the train would probably occasion some unpleasant scenes. Under that impression, two members of the common council acknowledged that they had warned the Duke of Wellington of his danger. The Lord Mayor elect, also, Alderman Key, apprised his Grace of an intention to make an attack on his person. It further appeared, that ministers had received similar notices from various quarters, and that several violent and inflammatory handbills had been industriously spread abroad, to excite the populace to outrage. These circumstances induced the Duke and his colleagues to decline going to the dinner; and as their absence would have been liable to a misconstruction little less serious than the danger to be apprehended from their presence, it was judged prudent to advise his Majesty to relinquish his intention, to prevent confusion and bloodshed. As soon as this determination became known, a general consternation was diffused throughout the metropolis and its vicinity. Business was nearly suspended; alarming reports were spread, of conspiracies ready to explode; of the influx of numbers of strangers into London, prepared for all kinds of mischief; and of immediate attempts being about to be made, to bring on a revolution. All this, of course, had an effect on the funds, which fell near three per cent; and mercantile confidence was almost at an end. The entertainment at the Guildhall was put off; and the chief magistrate, with his officers, went to Westminster Hall without the customary parade. It was naturally supposed from

hence, that ministers must have been in possession of information that had not publicly transpired ; and the military movements adopted by Government gave additional strength to the general apprehensions of undefined evils.

On Monday morning, two troops of artillery and two companies of sappers and miners arrived at the Tower, from Woolwich. These corps were to supply the vacancy occasioned in consequence of detachments of the Guards being required elsewhere. The ditch of the Tower was filled with water, and workmen were employed in erecting gates in the passage leading to the wharf. Orders were given on Sunday morning, that no persons should be admitted through the Tower ; but passengers were allowed to enter the gates near the stairs, and proceed along the wharf to the Iron gate. Orders were also issued at the War Office to the commanding officers of the Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, and the three battalions of the Foot Guards doing duty in London, for the whole of the men to be called into the different barracks at half-past five o'clock, and there to continue all night under arms. The same precaution was taken with respect to the first battalion of Grenadier Guards, then on duty in the Tower, and the gates were kept closed during the greater part of the day. An extra guard was also marched to the Magazine in Hyde Park. Several detachments arrived in and near London in the course of the day, consisting of the second regiment of Life Guards, from Brighton ; the Scotch Greys, from Windsor ; and part of the regiment of Light Infantry, from Hounslow and Hampton Court, were billeted in Chelsea, Putney, and that neighbourhood. The second battalion of the Grenadier Guards, under the command

of Colonel Lord Saltoun, arrived, by forced marches, from Windsor and Brighton. A double guard was likewise placed on duty at the Bank, and ordered to remain there the whole night.

Fears were entertained of riots on Tuesday evening, but though the streets were crowded with disorderly persons, between whom and the police there were some conflicts, the latter soon succeeded in dispersing the rabble, and no affray of importance took place. The next day confidence was restored, and the funds rapidly recovered.

Meanwhile, severe animadversions were passed in parliament on the conduct of ministers, for preventing his Majesty's visit to the city; and the Duke of Richmond, who began the discussion in the House of Lords, said, "The King reigned in the hearts of his subjects; and he pledged his property and existence, that his Majesty might have gone, unaccompanied by guards, and unarmed, through every street in the metropolis."

To this the Duke of Wellington readily assented; but yet he contended, as also did Secretary Peel in the other house, that, though the royal personage himself might be safe, his presence in the city would have been the means of bringing together a lawless assemblage of daring characters, bent upon riot and outrage; and that the military must have been called in, for the suppression of the tumult. Here the conversation ended; but in the city the conduct of the lord mayor, in writing to the minister as he did, without first consulting his brethren on a matter of so much importance to the city, underwent an inquiry, and was subjected to some strong censure.

It was, however, pretty obvious now, that the administration of the Duke of Wellington had sustained a

shock, and that its continuance could not be of long duration.

On Monday, the 15th of November, when the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Goulburn, moved that the House of Commons should go into a committee on the civil list, which, according to a previous estimate, it was proposed to raise to the annual sum of £970,000 ; Sir Henry Parnell moved as an amendment, "that a select committee be appointed, to inquire into the various items connected with the civil list, and to report thereon."

After a long debate, the house divided, when the numbers were—for the amendment 233, against it 204 ; thus leaving ministers in a minority of twenty-nine.

This terminated the political ascendancy of the Duke of Wellington ; and, on the following evening, his Grace, soon after entering the house, approached the table, and said, "My Lords, I deem it my duty to inform your lordships, that, in consequence of what occurred last night in the other House of Parliament, I felt it right to wait this morning on the King, and tender his Majesty the resignation of the office which I hold ; that his Majesty has been pleased to accept of my resignation ; and that I continue in my present situation only till a successor shall have been appointed."

In the Lower House, a similar communication was made by Sir Robert Peel ; but a circumstance followed, for which it is very difficult to account. Lord Althorp, having suggested to Mr. Brougham the propriety and necessity of postponing a motion for parliamentary reform, which stood for that evening, the honourable and learned gentleman gave a reluctant assent in these remarkable words : "As any change of administration that may take place cannot affect me, I am anxious to take this opportunity of



Painted by T. Phillips, Esq. R.A.

Engraved by H. Phillips

CHARLES GREY, EARL GREY.

Grey

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stating, that, if I now put off the motion, it will be only to the 25th of this month, and no longer; for I shall positively bring it forward then, whoever may be his Majesty's ministers."

The next day, he repeated the same declaration upon Sir Mathew White Ridley's moving that the consideration of election petitions should be postponed till after Christmas, that time might be given for the completion of the administration.

Mr. Brougham expressed his astonishment at the motion, and the reasons assigned for it by the honourable member, that ministers would not be present. "For himself, he would say, that the house could do many things without their assistance; with every feeling of respect for the future ministers, generally speaking, he could have nothing to do with the administration."

The motion was negatived; and two days after, Mr. Brougham was gazetted as lord high chancellor of Great Britain, with a peerage. The other offices were thus filled: In the cabinet—Earl Grey, first lord of the treasury; the Marquis of Lansdowne, president of the council; Lord Durham, lord privy seal; Lord Melbourne, home secretary; Lord Palmerston, foreign secretary; Lord Goderich, colonial secretary; Mr. Charles Grant, president of the India board; Lord Auckland, president of the board of trade, and master of the mint; Viscount Althorp, chancellor of the exchequer; Sir James Graham, first lord of the admiralty; to whom was added the Earl of Carlisle, without office.

Members of the government, not in the cabinet, were these:—Chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, Lord Holland; first commissioner of woods and forests, Hon. Agar Ellis; master-general of the ordnance, Sir Wil-

loughby Gordon ; judge advocate, Mr. Robert Grant ; attorney-general, Mr. Denman ; solicitor-general, Mr. Horne ; lord-lieutenant of Ireland, Marquis of Anglesey ; lord chamberlain, the Duke of Devonshire ; lord steward, the Marquis Wellesley ; master of the horse, Earl of Albemarle ; paymaster of the forces, Lord John Russell ; vice-president of the board of trade, and treasurer of the navy, Mr. Poulett Thomson ; postmaster-general, Duke of Richmond ; keeper of the great seal of Scotland, the Duke of Argyll ; chief secretary for Ireland, Mr. Stanley ; commander-in-chief, Lord Hill ; chancellor of Ireland, Lord Plunkett ; attorney-general for Ireland, Mr. Pennefather ; joint secretaries of the treasury, Mr. Edward Ellice and Mr. Spring Rice.

On this extraordinary ministerial revolution, so pregnant with important consequences, we shall forbear giving any opinion of our own, but content ourselves with extracting the moderate sentiments contained in the principal journal of the age. "There has not been within our memory," says the Times of the 22d of November, "a resignation of an entire cabinet, upon which public opinion may be said to have borne so directly and so powerfully, as that of the Duke of Wellington and his colleagues. It must nevertheless be acknowledged, that in no instance was a change effected in public opinion so absolute, so obvious, and so sudden, as that which his Grace experienced within a single fortnight, which he had the misfortune to produce by his own words, and to disregard utterly until it struck and overwhelmed him.

"So long as the Duke of Wellington moved in harmony with the predominating spirit of the nation, he was the most popular of all public servants. Notwithstanding the murmurs of a bigoted and narrow-minded faction,

he lost nothing in the eyes of the country generally, by his Catholic Bill, or his Dissenter's Bill; while the earnest he had afforded of a desire to retrench, even before his humane and considerate abolition of the beer-tax, and the credit he thus obtained as an economist, down almost to the eve of the late meeting of parliament, were such, that not more than six weeks preceding his retirement, he never shewed himself to the people without being loudly cheered.

“The revulsion, as we have said, was not capricious on the part of the people of England. The minister, instead of the national colours under which he had served since his accession to office, seemed all at once to hoist an unconstitutional ensign, to desert with it to the head-quarters of the borough system, and, to aggravate this unhappy dereliction, by an attempt, after the fashion of former times, to fix upon the neck of the country a pledge of supporting a large amount of civil list, inaccessible to any effort at alleviation or revision, during the whole reign of his present Majesty.

“The Duke, then, has fallen—for a fall it is: there is no evidence, (though suspicion there may be,) that his Grace would ever have resigned, if in his power to avoid it.

“What, then, is the lesson to be drawn from this downfall of a man, celebrated, esteemed, admired, until very lately endeared to his countrymen, and, in spite of every failure, immortal in the records of England and of Europe?—the lesson is an important one, for those who succeed, in office, the baffled administration of the Duke of Wellington.

“The exigency to which the new ministry owe their admission to power, is not one produced by court

intrigue, or by mere party triumph : it is founded on that opinion which caused the overthrow of a government hostile to reform ; not enough zealous for retrenchment ; and supposed to be, though perhaps unjustly, not quite impartial, as between the interests of freedom and prerogative, in the concerns of foreign nations.

“ By the tide of opinion, then, floated into office, it is upon it they must continue to buoy themselves, or they will inevitably perish.

“ The composition of the GREY ministry is possibly as good as the present state of parties would admit of ; confining the selection to public men who are likely to agree on most political questions, and especially in the enforcement of those great principles which constitute the rallying points for all reflecting and disinterested minds in the actual crisis of the world.

“ We do not attach high importance to the fact, that the lists of new ministers in circulation, embrace not merely the larger portion of the yet ascertained parliamentary talent now existing in the country, with the two exceptions of LORD LYNTHURST and MR. PEEL, but the whole of it. Wants which have more than once betrayed themselves among men of considerable ability as public speakers, may, we hope, not be chargeable upon the infant government ; we mean those of sagacity in council, promptitude in action, and steadiness and diligence in the conduct of daily, though subordinate, matters of administration. It is, perhaps, upon the last of these points, even if apparently the least momentous, that the most serious apprehensions might now with some reason be entertained. The Tories have, for almost half a century, filled all the offices under government ; so that, amongst many monopolies from which the public interest has

suffered, by no means the least injurious has been the monopoly of official experience, tact, and readiness, by a single party in the state, to the exclusion of a fair share of it by any and every other : nor is the operation of such a circumstance upon the course of public business, under a Whig administration, confined to the mere slowness or imperfection with which the machine of state, through the rawness of its conductors, moves on ; besides inexperience in the Whig who supersedes the Tory subaltern, there may be, from many years of close connexion with Tory patrons, something not far short of treachery in the Tory underling who, from generosity or indifference, is left in place, and trusted, when he ought in prudence to be superseded.

“ For working heads of departments, we feel a delicacy about prejudicing any man. LORD ALTHORP is, we believe, a man of steady industry, as well as sound good sense. LORD PALMERSTON has had long experience at the head of a difficult department ; and, if we may judge by his public speeches, is a man of liberal politics with regard to foreign nations. LORD GODERICH has had before now, sufficient acquaintance with colonial affairs, to save him the labour of elementary inquiry upon the subject : though totally unfit to lead and govern, it would be unfair to withhold from him the praise of industry, as well as good temper. Of LORD MELBOURNE, our home secretary, little more need be said, than that, as secretary for Ireland, he was not looked up to for superior energy or efficiency, and yet his present office requires indefatigable industry and vigour. MR. CHARLES GRANT is accused of indolence ; of want of ability, never. Of the remaining members, we may just observe, that LORD GREY and LORD BROUGHAM are

both known to the country more as opposition leaders than as practical statesmen, but that they both came into power at this moment, pledged in the most solemn manner to their Sovereign and the country, as advocates of the most unflinching retrenchment, and of a principle of reform adopted without reference to its operation on political friend or foe. The new lord chancellor stands more peculiarly bound before the world, not only to parliamentary reform, but to execute, on a broad and mighty scale, a plan of reform in the jurisprudence of the empire. But the first and last object of solicitude for the new ministry must be, that they accede to office by capitulation with the people—they must redress our grievances, or be for ever ruined.”

The last act of the departed ministry was the introduction of a bill by Lord Lyndhurst, for supplying the exigency of the government in case of the royal demise. On the same evening that the government suffered a defeat in the Commons, by the loss of their motion respecting the civil list, the lord chancellor, in the upper house, rose and said, that the bill which he was about to propose, provided, that, in the event of a posthumous child of their Majesties, the Queen should be its guardian and regent during the minority; and that Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Kent, should be the guardian and regent during the minority of her daughter, the Princess Victoria, now the presumptive heiress of the kingdom.

This bill was read the first time, committed as a matter of form, and without opposition received the royal assent.

At the close of the year, a special commission was appointed for the trial of persons guilty of riotous and

incendiary practices in the southern counties. Great numbers were convicted of destroying machinery, and robbing individuals of their property by forcible entry into their houses. Several were sentenced to be banished; some for ever, others for different terms of years; many were doomed to imprisonment for various periods; others were discharged on their own recognizances; and a few of the most flagitious offenders were ordered for execution. The most praiseworthy forbearance was throughout displayed by the legal advisers of the crown, in abstaining from prosecution in cases where any palliative circumstances were found, and where the misguided parties acted without deliberate malice. The lenity shewn to these offenders, however creditable to the government, failed of its purpose; and within a short time, similar outrages occurred, with equal, if not greater, malignity. This may be considered as a new species of crime in England; and shews too clearly the demoralization of a peasantry, formerly distinguished by subordination, industry, and sobriety. It cannot be denied that much of the evil arose from the want of proper instruction, moral and religious. This, the trials of the prisoners abundantly proved, as, out of one hundred and thirty-eight criminals at the Berkshire assize, only twenty-five could read and write; thirty-seven could read only; and the remaining seventy-six were destitute of all education.

Immediately before the parliamentary recess, the royal family left Windsor, to spend the Christmas at Brighton, where, on the 27th of December, his Majesty gave the hand of his youngest, and only unmarried daughter, Miss Amelia Fitzclarence, to the object of her choice, the Lord Viscount Falkland, a captain in the navy.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1831.

HOWEVER auspicious the reign of William the Fourth might appear, the political horizon soon manifested the signs of extraordinary changes and disturbances all over Europe.

These revolutionary symptoms, which began in France, and extended to Belgium, next broke out with tremendous effect in Poland; where the people, grown impatient under the oppression of the Grand Duke Constantine, brother to Nicholas, autocrat of all the Russias, rose in arms at Warsaw on the 29th of November, hoisted the flag of independence, and compelled the representative of the czar to seek his safety in flight. The insurrection spread like lightning throughout the provinces; and the attention of all Europe was at once drawn from other objects to this unequal contest, with a fervent and general wish, but one damped by anxious fear, for the success of the Polish patriots. In France and England this sympathy was prevalent; and it was eagerly expected that the government of the two countries would have promptly interposed in behalf of a people struggling for that liberty of which they had been cruelly robbed. Nothing, however, was done for the support of a cause, which may be said to have excited almost universal interest; and, in consequence, after a hard struggle, Poland fell again under the yoke of Russia. The sole concern of the great members of the European family appeared to be fixed on the affairs

of Belgium ; and as the court of Petersburg took a part in the settlement of the subsisting differences between the King of the Netherlands and the refractory Brabanters ; the other allied powers, unwilling to give offence to their imperial colleague, abandoned unhappy Poland to her fate. They were not, however, very fortunate in their work of mediation ; but, on the contrary, though their plenipotentiaries assembled at London, the longer the conference deliberated, the less satisfaction they gave to either of the conflicting parties. Like the anarchy of the chaotic deep, these umpires by their decisions only embroiled the fray. Meanwhile the Prince of Orange, who had governed Belgium as the representative of his father, retired to England, and endeavoured to procure himself elected to the sovereignty of Brabant ; but, instead of gaining the crown, he and his whole family were proscribed, by a decree of the provisional government at Brussels. Still the conference of the five powers in London pursued their labours, and, at the close of the year, declared, in a protocol, that the union of Belgium and Holland was destroyed ; that the rights of the King of the Netherlands, and the Germanic confederation, over the duchy of Luxemburg, were inviolate ; that, after the 20th of January, the navigation of the Scheldt should be free ; and that the Belgians should refrain from all hostilities. These conditions were rejected—that respecting Luxemburg, by the government at Brussels ; and the other, for opening the Scheldt, by the Dutch. Now, it certainly did appear very extraordinary, that England should become a party to the measure of opening the Scheldt, after having, on so many occasions, taken up arms to prevent an act which, if carried into effect, must inevitably prove the ruin of

Holland, and, by consequence, be hardly less injurious to this country. The immediate result would be, the sudden elevation of Antwerp to a superiority over Amsterdam, and make her a formidable rival of London—the very objects which the emperor Joseph had in view, when he held the sovereignty of Brabant; and which the French republicans first, and Buonaparte afterwards, aimed at, when the ambition of universal dominion set the obligations of national morality and the faith of treaties at defiance. It is true, that when, at the beginning of the first revolution in France, the free navigation of the Scheldt was openly insisted upon by the assembly, and as firmly resisted by the English ministry; there were, in both houses of parliament, men of great name and influence, advocates for yielding up this point, as an article not worth the hazardous chance of a war. It is observable, that his present Majesty, when this very subject came under discussion in the House of Lords in 1793, strenuously and most ably demonstrated the necessity of keeping the Scheldt closed, for the preservation of our Dutch ally against the encroachments of France; because, as he justly stated, were Antwerp to become, as it once was, a mart of foreign commerce, nothing could hinder the annexation of that city to the French dominion, whether monarchical or republican.

If there was any justice in this conduct at those times and under such circumstances, it became an imperative duty, upon the principles of national faith, in the present case, when Belgium, which had been united to Holland in virtue of a treaty formed and guaranteed by the allied powers, now broke off the connexion, to the manifest injury of the Dutch sovereign and people. Granting that the junction of the two states was impolitic in the

first instance, the act did not proceed from the prince who was now made to suffer by it, but from the confederated potentates, whose ministers were at this time assembled in London, to sanction the separation, and to take care that neither party should be injured by the division. It soon appeared, however, that, instead of conducting this unpleasant concern with a strict regard to the principles of equity, they were actuated by motives of a selfish and narrow-minded policy, which they dared not avow, and could with difficulty conceal. The consequence was, that embarrassment, dissatisfaction, and jealousy, lengthened out the proceedings, and multiplied the decisions, till the word *protocol* became a term of ridicule ; a term, in the diplomatic vocabulary, for protracted consultation, and indeterminate conclusion. Such was the state of the foreign relations of this country at the re-assembling of parliament, after the recess on the 3d of February ; and our domestic policy at the same time was in a still more unsettled and precarious condition. Ireland was now rapidly approaching to a crisis threatening to terminate either in convulsion or separation. On the 8th of January, a proclamation appeared at Dublin, for putting down a new society called "The General Association of Ireland." This was followed, two days afterwards, by another ; the object of which was, to root out a hot-bed of sedition held under the specious designation of "public breakfasts," at which the most mischievous schemes were devised, and treasonable speeches uttered, to raise a ferment in the public mind. Finally, the viceroy put forth a proclamation, the intent of which was, to prevent all associations for the purpose of furthering O'Connell's projects to revolutionize Ireland ; and the magistrates of Dublin second-

ing the government with energy, dispersed a committee that had assembled to arrange the proceedings of a meeting for the dissolution of the Union. On the 18th of January, O'Connell was arrested by the chief constable of police, for having attended two meetings, which had been expressly prohibited by government. On appearing before the magistrates, he commenced a violent harangue against their authority, and a still more furious denunciation on the government under whom they acted. This scene terminated in the agitator's being admitted to bail, himself in one thousand pounds, and two sureties in five hundred pounds each. Some others were arrested, and held to bail; the whole party being bound to appear in the court of King's Bench on the first day of the ensuing term.

Unappalled by these measures, and relying upon the influence which he had gained over the mass of the Irish population, O'Connell next ventured to take a more daring stride towards the attainment of absolute power. At the very moment when the law-officers of the crown were prosecuting him and his associates for seditious practices, the demagogue had the temerity to urge his countrymen to the ruinous proceeding of an attack upon commercial credit, by a run on the bank of Ireland. In this desperate project, however, he failed; for the merchants and tradesmen, foreseeing, that, if such frantic counsel should be only partially adopted, the total destruction of all confidence between men must inevitably ensue, and nothing but a frightful state of anarchy overspread the land. By a timely combination of the banking, mercantile, and trading interests, the fatal mischief was averted; but the very contrivance of it clearly marked the malignancy of the mind from

whence it emanated. In England also the symptoms of disaffection and insubordination were portentous of effects little less alarming than those which darkened the other part of the empire. Such was the situation of affairs, when the meeting of parliament excited universal expectation, and drew upon ministers the anxious attention of the public. The first notice given, was by the lord chancellor, announcing a bill for amending the administration of justice in the Court of Chancery, and for the better administration of the estates and effects of bankrupts.

The next notice was of still greater importance. Earl GREY, on presenting several petitions in favour of parliamentary reform, said, that, though his opinions did not go the length that some of them did on that subject, still, in the great principle of that measure, he entirely and decidedly concurred. Though himself and his colleagues had, since their accession to office, been occupied with matters of great and varied interest, yet they had succeeded in framing a plan, which they were persuaded would prove efficient, without exceeding the bounds of that prudent consideration with which such a measure should be accompanied. The earl concluded with stating, that the plan about to be proposed had met with the unanimous consent of the whole of his Majesty's government.

Viscount MELBOURNE, followed his leader with observing, that he was sure the measure that was to be introduced, would perfectly fulfil the just expectations of the people, without exciting the fears of those who were opposed to reform. It was also, his lordship said, the intention of government to endeavour to improve the condition of Ireland.

The proceeding adopted by Lord ALTHORP in the House of Commons, corresponded with that of Earl Grey ; but

his lordship stated the intentions of government more explicitly, and at greater length. The noble chancellor of the exchequer said, he rose to inform the house that his Majesty's government would be prepared to submit the plan, by which they proposed to reform the representation, on the first of March. He wished also to state, that government had determined to depute Lord JOHN RUSSELL, the paymaster of the forces, to bring the question forward. The noble lord had been selected for that task, in consequence of the ability and perseverance which he had displayed in the cause of reform, in days when it was unpopular. His noble friend had proposed various partial measures of reform, when even partial measures were looked upon unfavourably; now, therefore, when the cause was prosperous, the government thought that the noble lord was the fittest person to take the lead in this business, and to introduce a measure of full and efficient reform, instead of the partial ones which he had hitherto suggested.

In answer to a question put by Sir Charles Wetherell, whether the paymaster of the forces, to whom was delegated the duty of introducing the measure of parliamentary reform, was a member of the government?

Lord Althorp said he would answer at once, that his noble friend was not a member of the government; but if the honourable and learned gentleman meant to imply by his question, that the plan of reform, to be submitted to the House, had not the full concurrence of the government, one and all, he was completely in error. The course was not without precedent, as Mr. Burke, when paymaster of the forces, brought forward his famous plan for the reform of the civil expenditure of the country.

On the following day, the chancellor of the exchequer

introduced the new arrangement of the civil list, which, to the surprise of the public, differed in no respect from that of the preceding administration, except in a classification of the articles : the substance remained the same, and, instead of the reduction that had been generally expected, the whole saving amounted to no more than £20,000. But if the King's ministers gained little credit by their system, the King himself obtained an increase of popularity by his conduct on the occasion. Lord Althorp, after noticing the allowance of £54,000 which had been made to Queen Charlotte, said it was proposed to have granted the like sum to her present Majesty ; but that, when he submitted it to the King, his Majesty, with that desire not to increase the public burdens which was so honourable to him, refused to sanction the measure. Under other circumstances, added his lordship, ministers might have been compelled to do otherwise. They had, however, the happiness to serve a master, who was not only ready to listen to every recommendation on their part, but also himself to suggest what he thought might be of advantage to the people. This disposition of his Majesty it was, that had caused the commencement of his reign to be hailed with so much satisfaction, and which would render him, to the end of it, one of the most popular monarchs that ever sat upon a throne.

On the 11th of the same month, the chancellor of the exchequer, in bringing forward the budget, began with enumerating two hundred and ten places under government, which it was proposed to reduce, or abolish altogether. These reductions, the noble lord said, would leave a surplus revenue of £300,000, which he considered as much too low. His lordship then proceeded to state the taxes he meant to reduce ; the first of which was,

tobacco, both raw and manufactured ; and the next tax to be reduced was, that on newspapers ; the imposts to be abolished were on sea-borne coals, on tallow candles, on printed calicoes, and on glass ; the whole amounting to four millions : to make up for the deficiency, it was proposed to equalize the duty on all foreign wines, including that of the Cape, at the rate of 5s. 6d. a gallon ; the tax upon timber, whether imported from the Baltic or Canada, was also deemed capable of a considerable addition. The next object of taxation was one penny per pound on raw cotton, allowing a drawback, on exports. He intended also to lay a tax upon passengers in steam-boats, according to the distances ; lastly, the noble lord proposed a duty of one half per cent on all *bona fide* transfers of funded property, and the same upon sales of land. By these several means, his lordship calculated there would be a surplus revenue of £450,000, more than sufficient to cover all the reductions.

This financial scheme gave general dissatisfaction. It excited wonder, that tobacco, a foreign weed, should be accounted of so much importance, as to meet with indulgence, while articles of necessity were still suffered to bear a heavy impost. Newspapers also, being objects of luxury, came under the same description, and were thought more deserving of an additional tax than a reduction. The proposed new duties, and alterations of existing ones, however, elicited most opposition.

As soon as the chancellor of the exchequer had disclosed the contents of his budget, Mr. Ward, one of the city members, rose, and declared that the proposed tax upon funded property would spread general alarm and dismay. Sir Robert Peel followed to the same purport, and said, that it would be a breach of the public faith,



PAGE & SON SC.

THE RT HONBLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL, M.P.

Russell

and tarnish the reputation of the country. This sentiment was so general, that, three days afterwards, ministers gave up this part of their plan, and stated, that they should retain, in lieu of it, the duties upon tobacco and glass. The proposed tax upon steam navigation was also abandoned ; and when that upon timber came under consideration in committee, ministers were left in a minority of forty-six, the numbers being 236 against 190, on the division. The equalization of the wine duties, and the tax upon cotton wool, were also resisted with so much vigour, both in and out of parliament, that the financial scheme was completely broken up, and no other substituted in its stead during the session.

On the first of March, Lord John Russell brought forward the important measure of parliamentary reform. After some observations on the policy and expediency of bringing the state of the representation under revision, the noble lord proceeded to explain the nature of the plan which his Majesty's government had agreed in proposing to the House of Commons on this subject.

“ The principal grievances, he said, of which the people complained were three : first, the nomination of candidates by individuals ; secondly, election by close corporations ; and, thirdly, electioneering expenses. With regard to the first, where it was found that boroughs contained but few inhabitants, and where the elective franchise was only a means of enabling individuals to send representatives to that house, it would be right to deprive those persons of that power, by taking away the franchise from such borough. It was, therefore, proposed that every borough whose population did not amount to two thousand, according to the census of 1821, should be deprived of the privilege of sending representatives to parliament, which measure would disfranchise sixty boroughs. Of forty-seven boroughs, the population of which was only four thousand each, it was proposed that they should send only one member. Weymouth, which now sent four, would in future send but two. The general result would be—the disfranchisement of the sixty boroughs would take away 119 members, which, with those

taken from the forty-seven boroughs, and the two from Weymouth, would give a total of 168 members deprived of seats. The mode of extending the elective franchise was proposed to be as follows : every householder, rated at £10 a year, to possess the right of voting ; persons at present possessing that right, not to be deprived of it, provided they actually resided in the borough. With regard to non-residents, they were at present the cause of so much expense and bribery, that it was not deemed expedient they should retain the privilege. With respect to the elective franchise for counties, it was proposed that copyholders, possessing property rated at £10 a year, as well as persons holding leases of the yearly value of £50, and to the extent of twenty-one years, should be entitled to a vote. This plan would cause a reduction of 168 members of that house ; but it was not intended to fill up all the vacancies thus created. It was proposed that seven towns now unrepresented, namely, Manchester and Salford—Birmingham and Ashted—Leeds—Greenwich, Deptford, and Woolwich—Wolverhampton, Bilston, and Sedgely—Sheffield—and Sunderland, and the two Wearmouths—should each return two members. It was also proposed that twenty other towns, of inferior importance, should each send one member to parliament. There was a great portion of the metropolis, the inhabitants of which, eight or nine hundred thousand, were wholly unrepresented ; it was, therefore, proposed to give them the right of electing eight members. It was also proposed to make an addition of two members each to twenty-seven of the larger counties, containing not less than 150,000 inhabitants. It was also intended to give an additional member to the Isle of Wight. The noble lord then proceeded to notice the present imperfect mode of voting at elections. In order to remedy the existing evils, it was proposed that all the electors for boroughs, cities, and towns, should be registered ; the list to be placed on the church-door, and at a certain period of the year, the returning officer of the borough to hold a court, and hear the claims of those persons whose votes were called in question. He should then publish this list, which was to become the election roll for the ensuing year. It was next intended to limit the duration of the poll to two days ; and hopes were entertained, that in time the most populous boroughs would be polled in one day. The noble mover then brought under consideration the mode in which it was proposed to take the sense of the counties with regard to the election of members. It was suggested, that the churchwardens should make out lists of persons entitled to vote, and affix the same to the church door, and that a person should be appointed by the judges of assize,

to make a circuit through the whole county once a year, to settle the rights of voters. The list, when completed, to be transmitted to the clerk of the peace for enrolment, and to constitute the electors of the following year. To obviate the great expense incurred by county elections, it was proposed that the poll should be taken in separate districts, to be decided at the quarter-sessions, and that the arrangement should undergo no change for the space of two years. It was intended that the poll should last three days, and that on the sixth day the sheriff should declare on whom the election had fallen. The districts were to be dispersed over the whole of the counties, so that no elector would have to go more than fifteen miles to tender his vote. To arrange these districts, commissioners of the privy council were to be named by his Majesty, to see that the business was properly done ; and who were also to be empowered, when the number of electors by the proposed regulations should be too small in any borough, to make an addition from the adjoining parishes. These commissioners would be required to report their proceedings to his Majesty in council, who would cause public proclamation to be made of the mode in which the divisions of the counties had been effected, and how the deficiency in electors for boroughs had been supplied. The noble lord stated, that, according to the present plan, the man who acquired a vote for any city, town, or borough, would not have a right to vote also for the county. At the same time, it was not intended to interfere with the freeholders, government being aware that even the forty shilling freeholders were well qualified to exercise the elective franchise, and that it was by enabling small proprietors to vote, that they should give that extended basis to the representation which it was desirable that it should possess. His lordship then read a list of the boroughs to be disfranchised ; and next, of those which were to be reduced to one member.

With regard to Wales, it was intended to unite different places, and to create a new district of boroughs, to return together one member additional for the principality.

On the state of Scotland, his lordship said, that the qualification to vote for counties would be, the ownership of land or houses worth £10 a year, or holding as tenant at the annual value of £50, on lease for 19 years or upwards ; for burghs, the occupancy of a dwelling-house of £10 per annum.

In regard to Ireland, it was proposed, that occupancy to the amount of £10 per annum should give a right to vote for the boroughs ; and that Belfast, Limerick, and Waterford, owing to their increasing prosperity, should each return an additional member.

The noble lord concluded with stating, that though, instead of 658 members, of which the House of Commons now consisted, the total number would hereafter be 596; yet there would be at least 500,000 persons added to the number of those who now exercised the elective franchise.

The motion, having been seconded, was opposed by Sir Robert Inglis, member for the university of Oxford, who contended that the plan meant revolution, and not reform.

The debate was then continued by repeated adjournments from day to day; during which, the whole strength of the house was brought into action upon the question, till the 9th, when leave was given to bring in a bill to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales. Leave was also given to bring in bills to amend the representation of Scotland and Ireland.

On the 14th, the first bill was brought in, and read; when the noble mover said, that some few alterations had been since made in one or two instances, by joining certain large suburbs with the adjacent towns.

On the 21st, the second reading of the bill was moved, when Sir Richard Vyvyan, one of the members for Cornwall, concluded a long and able speech with moving as an amendment, that it should be read that day six months. A warm debate ensued, and the question was adjourned till the following day, when several members having delivered their opinions, Lord John Russell, at a late hour, defended the bill, and replied at great length to the arguments by which it had been assailed. The house then divided, when there appeared for the amendment, 301—against it, 302; leaving the victor with the majority of one only—which in all ordinary cases would have been accounted a defeat, yet, on this momentous

occasion, it was cheered as a triumph, and the bill ordered to be committed on the 14th of April.

During the agitation of this great question, innumerable petitions poured into both houses, in favour of parliamentary reform; all of them approving of the pending measure in the general outline, but many complaining that it did not go far enough, and that, to render it perfectly satisfactory, vote by ballot and universal suffrage were absolutely necessary.

On the 15th of April, the chancellor of the exchequer brought down to the House of Commons the following message from the King:—

“WILLIAM R.—His Majesty, trusting to the affectionate regard of his faithful Commons, both for his Majesty and for the Queen, recommends to their immediate consideration, the making such a provision as may be adequate to the maintenance of her Majesty's royal dignity, in case she should survive his Majesty.”

The royal message was ordered to be taken into consideration the next day, when the house having gone into a committee, Lord Althorp rose, and said,

“It becomes my duty to state what the government proposes as a provision for her Majesty, should she survive the King; and in doing so, I apprehend there will be no difference of opinion on the subject, for I am sure all parties will concur in any measure tending to the personal comfort of the Sovereign: and I am equally certain that the same feeling pervades the house in regard to her Majesty, who, during the whole time in which she has been here, has conducted herself in a manner calculated to endear her to the people of England. The proposition I have to submit is founded on precedency. The dowry voted to the Queens of George II. and George III. was £100,000 for life. Queen Caroline had assigned to her Somerset House as a town residence, and a part of Windsor Castle as a country residence. The only question in the present case will be, as to the town residence, for Bushy Park has already been selected by her Majesty for her country residence. Under all circumstances, it has been considered most

advisable to assign Marlborough House for the accommodation of the Queen. I therefore move 'That it is the opinion of this committee, that there be granted as a provision for her Majesty, in case of her surviving the King, the sum of one hundred thousand pounds per annum for life, to support her royal dignity; and that Bushy Park and Marlborough House be also assigned as residences for her Majesty during her life.'"

The motion was agreed to without a dissentient voice, but, owing to the extraordinary turn which the great question of reform took, nothing further was done in this business in the present parliament.

On Monday the 18th, Lord John Russell concluded an elaborate and energetic speech, with moving the order of the day, that the house do resolve itself into a committee, to consider the provisions of the bill for the amendment of the representation of England and Wales.

Upon this, General Gascoyne, member for Liverpool, rose, and maintained that the bill, as it now stood, was totally different from the one which the noble author had first introduced. When his lordship first brought forward the measure, he proposed to increase the number of the representatives for Scotland, and to diminish the number of those for England by no less than sixty-two members: whereas now, he proposed to cut off thirty-one only.

The gallant general, having dwelt at some length upon the changes which had taken place in the projected scheme, and inferred from thence that there was no stable principle in it, moved,

"That in the opinion of this house, the total number of knights, citizens, and burgesses, returned to parliament for that part of the United Kingdom called England and Wales, ought not to be diminished."

This motion produced a vehement and contentious debate, which was adjourned to the following day, when the

house divided on the original motion, which was negatived; the numbers being for the bill as it stood, 291—and for General Gascoyne's proposition, 299; thus leaving ministers in a minority of eight, upon an essential point of their bill.

On the 21st Sir Richard Vyvyan concluded a very caustic speech, with asking the chancellor of the exchequer, "Whether it was the intention of his Majesty's ministers to proceed with the bill, or to advise the King to dissolve this parliament, because the house had not consented to reduce the number of English representatives?"

Lord Althorp said, "I have no hesitation in stating, in answer to the honourable baronet's question, that, having taking into consideration the necessary effect and consequences of the vote of the House the other night, it is not the intention of his Majesty's government to proceed with the bill. It would be inconsistent with my duty to give any answer to the latter part of the honourable baronet's question."

No doubt, however, remained that a dissolution had already been determined by the cabinet; and the following day decided the fate of the first parliament of William the Fourth, after a duration of six months only.

But though it was generally known that the ministry had persuaded the King to make an appeal to the people on this question, it was not expected that his Majesty would execute that object in person; premature dissolutions, under circumstances of royal displeasure, having always, since the reign of Charles the First, been performed by commission. In the present anomalous case, the King, of his own accord, resolved to deviate from the ordinary usage, in order to shew the

perfect confidence which he reposed in his ministers, and his approval of their measures.

At half past two o'clock on Friday, the speaker of the House of Commons took the chair, when

Sir Richard Vyvyan rose and said, that, as they were on the eve of a dissolution, he wished to make a few observations. His Majesty's ministers, he said, had, for the first time during many years, after the vote of the preceding night, which hindered them from bringing forward the ordnance estimates, determined to dissolve the parliament. It might happen, however, at no great distance of time, that they would have bitterly to repent the course they had taken. Let them look well then to the awful responsibility which they incurred, when they adopted measures that might compromise the safety of their families, their property, and all that was dear to them. It was useless to disguise the fact, that they were on the eve of a revolution. Ministers had proceeded in their present course, to catch at popularity—a fleeting, uncertain popularity, which could not be depended on for an hour. He would tell them on what grounds they had come into power: there was in the last two years an influential party of men, who were dissatisfied with the proceedings of that house. They wanted to see a strong body of efficient persons in the government. They saw with regret, that motions made for inquiry into the distresses of the country were defeated; they lamented that all motions of that nature were rendered useless. Ministers knew as well as he did, that they came into power through the weight of the body of men of whom he was then speaking. It was that body, and not the present ministers, who turned out the preceding ministry. He would tell them also, that it was not reform that effected the change. It was neither that question, nor the declaration of the noble duke, then at the head of the government, which effected the removal of the late cabinet. No; it was the general wish of the country, that its distressed situation should be inquired into—it was the desire, the anxious desire, of those who complained of the misfortunes under which the nation laboured, that those calamities should be investigated and remedied; it was these feelings that produced a change of administration. But it could not escape observation, that the present men had not done one thing to satisfy the public expectations. They were the most incapable, the most inconsistent body of men that ever attempted to govern a great country; making and moulding measures one day, and altering and abandoning them the next. Even that very bill of reform was

to be withdrawn, because ministers would not allow men to vote that England should continue to send the same number of members to parliament as at present. The present ministers, he admitted, took office with the feelings of the House of Commons in their favour; and they well knew, that, without such favour, they had not a majority of their own party. They were tried, and found wanting; and now, finding that they could not secure a majority, they dissolved parliament, on a question of great and general excitement, evidently for the purpose of keeping themselves in power.

The honourable baronet next took a view of the state of Ireland, and concluded with saying, that

If ministers ultimately carried their reform bill, the repeal of the Union would follow, in consequence of the superior advantages given to the Catholics over the Protestants in the representation of that country; that a succession of changes would rapidly succeed, to the destruction of the funded property and that of the church, which probably would end in the subversion of the monarchy itself.

Whilst the report of the cannon announced the approach of the King, Sir Robert Peel claimed the attention of the house, to the same purport as the preceding speaker—but the tumult was so great, that he could not at first obtain a hearing; upon which he said,

If that were the way in which they were to proceed in future, let the people of England beware of the consequence. If their reformed parliament was to be elected, if the “Bill, the whole Bill,” were to be passed, it did appear to him that there would then be established one of the worst despotisms that ever existed. They would have a parliament of mob demagogues, not a parliament of wise and prudent men. At that moment, society was wholly disorganized in the west of Ireland; and that disorganization was rapidly extending elsewhere. At this critical juncture, instead of doing their duty, and calling for measures to secure life and property from sanguinary barbarians, ministers, anxious only to protect themselves, had recourse to a dissolution of parliament. The powers of the crown had ceased, for he felt that it would no longer be an object of fair ambition with any consistent man to enter into the public service.

This speech was broken off by the appearance of the usher of the black rod, commanding the attendance of

the speaker and members at the bar of the House of Lords.

We must now take a view of the extraordinary scene which previously passed in the upper house of parliament. Their lordships met at three o'clock, and the house was extremely crowded. Most of the peers, as usual upon such occasions, were in their robes ; but the rest appeared without the distinctions of their respective ranks, and all in disorder.

The Lord Chancellor having left the woolsack for the purpose of receiving his Majesty, whose arrival had been announced by the guns in the park, the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair ; upon which the Duke of Richmond rose to order, saying, that their lordships ought to be in their places. This produced confusion, and, in the midst of the uproar for order, a peer, supposed to be Lord Lyndhurst, made some remark, which drew from the Duke of Richmond a motion, that the standing order against offensive language should be read. This increased the storm, in the midst of which the Marquis of Londonderry said,

That the noble Duke seemed to think he was to be the hero of the *coup de état* on this occasion ; and that he was able to smother that feeling which was essential to the expression of the sentiments of noble lords at this extraordinary crisis. It seemed that the noble duke endeavoured to stop the right of peers of that house to declare their sentiments, by having recourse to the miserable shift of moving the standing orders.

Here there was a tumultuous cry of ' Order, order,' during which, Lord WHARNCLIFFE, rose and read an address, the purport of which was, to " represent to his Majesty, under the extraordinary circumstances in which the country was placed, and the excitement now subsisting, that it appeared to this house, that a prorogation or

dissolution of parliament, would be attended with the most disastrous consequences." At this moment the Lord Chancellor entered, and said,

"My lords, I have never yet heard it doubted that the King possessed the prerogative of dissolving parliament at pleasure; still less have I ever known a doubt to exist on the subject, at a moment when the lower house has thought fit to refuse the supplies."

Here were loud exclamations of "The King," and renewed uproar, during which the chancellor went out again, to wait upon his Majesty. In the interval, the Earl of Mansfield took the opportunity of mentioning the advice he had given to the King.

He had stated, that if his Majesty should be unfortunately advised to adopt the present measure, with a view to a revival of the bill in an amended form, and should give his assent to a dissolution of parliament, such a proceeding would be so pregnant with danger, that he was certain, though he could not predict either the manner or the gradation of the attack, that an attack would afterwards be made upon the credit of the country, on the national debt, and then upon the privileges and the very existence of that house, and at last upon the privileges and existence of the crown itself; those privileges which the crown did not hold for its own benefit, but for the happiness and interests of the people. He felt great pleasure in making this communication with reference to his own conduct, at a time when popular clamour was at its height; and if, in defence of that conduct and his opinions, any words had escaped him personally offensive to any noble lord, he should regret the circumstance, whilst at the same time he felt himself bound to make this statement on his own behalf.

Here loud cries of "The King, the King," announced the approach of his Majesty, who entered, and mounted the throne. The House of Commons being now summoned, a numerous body of members appeared at the bar, headed by the speaker, who addressed the King as follows:

"May it please your Majesty, we, your Majesty's faithful Commons approach your Majesty with profound respect;—and, Sire, in no period of our history, have the Commons House

of Parliament more faithfully responded to the real feelings and interests of your Majesty's loyal, dutiful, and affectionate people;—while it has been their earnest desire to support the dignity and honour of the crown, upon which depend the greatness, the happiness, and the prosperity of this country."

The speaker then presented several bills, which received the royal assent, and the King delivered the following speech :

" MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

" I have come to meet you for the purpose of prorogating this Parliament, with a view to its immediate dissolution.

" I have been induced to resort to this measure, for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my people, in the way in which it can be most constitutionally and authentically expressed, on the expediency of making such changes in the representation as circumstances may appear to require, and which, founded upon the acknowledged principles of the constitution, may tend at once to uphold the just rights and prerogatives of the crown, and to give security to the liberties of the people."

" GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

" I thank you for the provision you have made for the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the crown, and I offer you my special acknowledgments for the arrangements you have made for the state and comfort of my Royal Consort. I have also to thank you for the supplies which you have furnished for the public service.

" I have observed with satisfaction, your endeavours to introduce a strict economy into every branch of that service; and I trust that the early attention of a new Parliament, which I shall direct forthwith to be called, will be applied to the prosecution of that important subject."

" MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

" I am happy to inform you, that the friendly intercourse which subsists between myself and foreign powers, affords the best hopes of the continuance of peace, to the preservation of which my most anxious endeavours will be constantly directed."

" MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

" In resolving to recur to the sense of my people in the present circumstances of the country, I have been influenced only by a paternal anxiety for the contentment and happiness of my subjects; to promote which, I rely with confidence on your continued and zealous assistance."



Drawn & Engraved by H. Melville

THE KING PROROGUEING PARLIAMENT, APRIL, 1831.



Then the lord chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said :

“ My Lords and Gentlemen—It is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that the parliament be prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next, to be then here holden : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the 10th day of May next.

After the prorogation, the King left the house ; and, on his return to St. James's, he was enthusiastically cheered by the people.

The next day parliament was dissolved by proclamation, and the new one appointed to meet on the 14th of June.

There were some curious anecdotes circulated respecting the King's determination to carry his point, in the support of ministers on this occasion. The two following, as characteristic of royal firmness, merit insertion.

So suddenly was the intention of the King to prorogue parliament in person, taken, that it was found impossible to get the cream-coloured state-horses in readiness to convey the monarch to the House of Lords, and, in consequence, the black Hanoverian horses were substituted. It is further said, in proof of his Majesty's determination, that when he first ordered the horses against three o'clock, he was told that they could not be ready by that time. “ Well, then,” replied the monarch, “ I will go down in a hackney-coach ; I shall then, at any rate, be the first sovereign of England who rode in a jarvey to prorogue Parliament.”

When the King was in the act of attiring himself in the robing room, two of the lords in waiting, as usual, offered to assist in placing the crown upon his head. “ No, no,” he exclaimed, “ on this occasion I will place the crown upon my head, without assistance.”

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1831.

THE dissolution of Parliament, which at another time, and under different circumstances, would have created general alarm, had in the present instance a contrary effect. In the metropolis, and its neighbourhood for miles round, splendid illuminations took place on the following Wednesday; but, as might have been foreseen, these expressions of public feeling were attended with some riotous outrages, vented against the mansions of such members of the two houses as had made themselves conspicuous by their opposition to the popular measure.

The general election corresponded with this spirit: every where the cause of reform was triumphant; and it appeared by the returns, that ministers had not made a wrong calculation of their strength, when they formed the determination of calling upon the people for support.

Whilst matters stood thus at home, the attention of government was called to assert the honour of the national flag, and the rights of British subjects abroad. Don Miguel, the usurper of the throne of Portugal, with as little regard to his own interests as to the principles of justice, ventured to seize British property on the high seas, and to imprison resident natives of this country at Lisbon, without any charge, and in despite of all remonstrances from the English consul and factory. For these injuries, satisfaction had been repeatedly demanded, but refused; on which, after too long forbearance, minis-

ters sent a squadron of ships, which entered the Tagus on the 29th of April, and in three days brought the Portuguese government to submission. The conditions complied with were—compensation to all the parties who had been wronged; the dismissal of the Portuguese officers and judges who had been instrumental to the injuries committed, and a public acknowledgment of the offences in the Royal Gazette of Lisbon.

About the same time, the French government, and that of the United States, inflicted a still heavier judgment upon the Portuguese tyrant, for his conduct towards the shipping and people of their respective countries.

While these transactions were taking place in Portugal, a revolution broke out in Brazil, in consequence of which, the emperor, Don Pedro repaired for safety, with his empress and suite, on board the *Volage* frigate, commanded by Lord Colchester; from whence he issued a proclamation, declaring, that he abdicated the throne in favour of his son, a child only five years of age, whom he recommended to the care of the nation. On the 9th of June, Don Pedro arrived at Falmouth, and, after obtaining supplies, proceeded to Cherbourg; but soon returned, and took up his residence in London, under the title of the Duke of Braganza.

Amidst all these fluctuations and disorders, the state of the British empire was far from presenting a satisfactory appearance. The condition of Ireland was deplorable. The peasantry in the western districts, driven to desperation by famine, and the oppression of their landlords, had recourse to acts of the greatest atrocity. In Clare county, agricultural property, while yet in the earth, was devastated; barns were destroyed by fire, cattle houghed, and dwelling-houses demolished. Every

kind of midnight violence was perpetrated, not from motives of religious animosity or political rancour, but because the people wanted food, and in many cases were without a dwelling. More than half the gentry, in fear of their lives, fled from their houses, and took refuge in Limerick or Dublin. They who remained, were forced to barricade their houses, and keep guard day and night, to prevent surprise. A committee, which had been formed at Ennis in the county of Clare, for the purpose of endeavouring to restore tranquillity, were soon under the necessity of dissolving themselves, in the utter hopelessness of being able to effect that object. Meanwhile, the lord lieutenant, who had visited that part of the country to see what could be done for the benefit of the suffering poor, issued a proclamation, calling upon the people to give up their arms by the 10th of April; but as no regard was paid to the injunction, another proclamation was published, laying the entire county under the insurrection act. Special commissions were also held at Limerick and Clare, for the trial of persons charged with depredatory practices; and many of these offenders received sentence of perpetual transportation. Meanwhile, Daniel O'Connell, who was the mainspring of these disturbances, and had pleaded guilty to the principal counts of the indictment against him, was suffered to escape judgment.

At this time, alarming accounts arrived of the troubled state of our western colonies, particularly the island of Antigua, where an insurrection of the negroes broke out, occasioned by the suppression of the Sunday market, which had hitherto been allowed to the slaves for their peculiar benefit, and not giving them another day in its stead. Tranquillity and order could not be restored with-

out the aid of the military power, and the execution of some of the ringleaders. At Barbadoes and the other islands, fears were entertained of a general rising of the black population; among whom the idea prevailed, that though the King and parliament of England had declared them free, liberty was wrongfully withheld from them by their masters.

To the changes which distinguished this revolutionary period, and which in some degree affected the reigning family of Great Britain, we may just mention the deposition of Charles, Duke of Brunswick, and the appointment of his brother William to the sovereignty. The people of Brunswick, however, had executed the decree of the Germanic diet, in expelling the young despot, before his incapacity was publicly declared. The deprived exile was then at Paris, from whence he proceeded to reside with his friend Ferdinand of Spain. This measure, so necessary for the happiness of the people of Brunswick, was principally owing to the prompt interposition of William the Fourth, King of Great Britain and Hanover.

At the beginning of May, great expectations were entertained in London, that their Majesties would gratify the citizens with a visit at their Guildhall. Arrangements were formed, and preparations were making, for the reception of the illustrious guests on the 20th of May, when, in the interval, the lord mayor received the following letter from the secretary of state.

“ South Street, May 9th, 1831.

“ My Lord.—In my letter of the 4th instant, I had the honour of conveying to your lordship the expression of his Majesty's wish, that the preparations to receive him should be suspended, until after his return to London on this day, when the state of his Majesty's health might enable him to determine

whether it would be possible for him to bear the exertion which his visit to the City would require.

“ I am now commanded by his Majesty, to whom your lordship’s letter of yesterday, to Lord Grey, has been submitted, to apprise your lordship, that the same cause which led his Majesty to delay receiving the invitation of the City of London on Wednesday last, unfortunately continues, and compels his Majesty, still more reluctantly, to defer receiving that invitation altogether at the present season.

“ Nothing but a necessity arising from the state of his health, which I cannot doubt his Majesty’s loyal and affectionate subjects of the City of London, will be the first to admit to be paramount to every other consideration, could have induced his Majesty to come to a determination, which, he is well aware, and he deeply regrets it, will be the cause of great disappointment. I am, at the same time, instructed to state to your lordship, that the circumstances adverted to in your lordship’s letter to Lord Grey have had no influence on his Majesty’s mind on this occasion. His Majesty has been entirely satisfied by your lordship’s explanation of your conduct with respect to the late illuminations ; and his Majesty learned, with unqualified pleasure, that the notice, said to have been issued by your lordship, respecting the employment of the city police, was totally without foundation. This assurance, which I am authorized to convey to your lordship in the strongest terms, will, I trust, put an end to the uneasiness which the unjust imputations upon your lordship’s conduct appear to have occasioned, and entirely remove from your mind the apprehension, that you could have been in any degree the cause of depriving your fellow-citizens of an honour, to which they had looked with so much anxious expectation.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ MELBOURNE.”

Notwithstanding the disordered state of politics at this time, the court of Great Britain exhibited an increased degree of splendour, in levees, drawing-rooms, and festive entertainments ; by which trade, in its various branches, was considerably benefited.

On Friday the 6th of May, the King presented a pair of silver kettle-drums to the Royal Blues, on the terrace of Windsor park. At half past ten, the regiments proceeded to the ground, the line of which was kept by the

Lancers. A troop of the 1st Life Guards, and one of the Royal Blues, with the state trumpeter, were stationed in the Quadrangle. At eleven, a flourish of the trumpet announced the royal presence, when the King descended to the grand terrace, and entered his barouche with the Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester, and Prince Leopold. The Queen then entered her barouche, accompanied by the Princess Augusta, and the Duchesses of Gloucester and Cumberland. Three other carriages followed, and the whole drove to the centre of the line. The kettle-drums, weighing 1,900 ounces, and of the value of £1,400, on which the royal arms and eight groups of military trophies were chased, with the words "Peninsula" and "Waterloo," were then brought to his Majesty, who delivered them to Colonel Lygon, with a very appropriate speech; to which the latter made a reply, expressive of the thanks of the regiment for the honour conferred upon them. This ceremony being over, the troops passed in review, each band playing alternately. In the evening, all the officers that had appeared on the ground were entertained in St. George's Hall.

On the 28th of the same month, the birth-day of the King was celebrated for the first time, according to the new arrangement, as the 24th of February had been in honour of her Majesty. On both occasions, but especially that appropriated to commemorate the natal day of the King, great expressions of joy were manifested, in transparencies, illuminations, and other devices, not only throughout the metropolis, but all over the kingdom. What contributed to heighten the brilliancy of these scenes, and to bring them more frequently into public view, was the arrival, this spring, of her Majesty's only

sister, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, who spent the greatest part of the summer with her royal relatives ; induced partly to do so by the agitated state of the Netherlands, where the Duke, her consort, held an important military command in the service of the king of Holland.

Sunday, the 26th of June, being the anniversary of his Majesty's accession to the throne, the same was observed with the usual demonstrations of joy. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of the church bells, which was continued throughout the day, except during the hours of divine service. The national standard was hoisted on the government buildings, and numerous vessels in the Thames and docks displayed the colours of all nations. At one o'clock, the Park and Tower guns fired a double royal salute, in honour of the day ; and in other parts of the kingdom, similar marks of respect took place.

Soon after this, a numerous meeting of noblemen and others took place in London, for the purpose of establishing an institution, destined for the education of the children of naval officers. Admiral Blackwood presided ; a committee was appointed ; and subscriptions, to a large amount, were entered. His Majesty, on being applied to, consented to become the patron ; and it is worthy of record, that shortly after, Dr. Bell, with whom originated the improved system of education called the "Madras," presented to the committee ten thousand pounds in support of the institution.

The Gazette of the 12th of May contained the following announcement : "The King has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the great seal, granting the dignities of Baron, Viscount, and Earl, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, unto George Fitzclarence, Esq., Colonel in the army, and

the heirs male of his body, lawfully begotten, by the names, stiles, and titles of Baron Tewkesbury, Viscount Fitzclarence, and Earl of Munster."

On the day after the meeting of parliament, the newly created Earl took the oaths and his seat in the House of Lords, as a peer of the realm, created by virtue of his Majesty's letters patent.—The ceremony is thus described in the public journals. The occasion caused a considerable attendance of peeresses, and other ladies of distinction; but during the formalities, such peers as had not taken the oaths of this parliament, were not allowed to remain in the body of the house; a rigid attention to which rule, curiously enough, compelled Sir Thomas Tyrwhit, the usher of the black rod, to remove from his seat the Duke of Wellington. Among the ladies present, was the Countess of Munster, the wife of the Earl, and daughter of Lord Egremont. The Earl was introduced with all the usual forms. He was dressed in his robes; preceded by Sir George Nayler, Garter King at Arms, and supported by the Earls of Denbigh and Romney. The patent was then read; wherein his Majesty describes the new peer as "my natural son;" and every time that he is mentioned, the same designation is used. While being sworn, the Earl, as he is near-sighted, wished to lay down the Testament, to enable him to look more closely at the form of the oath; but he was told that he must retain the book in his hand, so that he had no hand disengaged, to hold the glass. This circumstance occasioned a good deal of merriment. The patent, in the event of failure of male issue, continues the title to the next eldest natural son of the King, and so on, to each of the other brothers.

One of the public journals, in noticing this elevation,

gave the following statement. On the accession of his Majesty to the throne, the title of Earl of Munster, which, as Duke of Clarence, he enjoyed in the Irish peerage, merged in the crown. A point was then raised, whether the title, having thus become extinct, was to be deemed one of the three Irish peerages, which must be lost by extinction, before the crown can create a new Irish peerage. The question is now set at rest.

The same official organ of public information on the 24th communicated the following intelligence: "The King has been pleased to grant to Frederick Fitzclarence, Esq., a Colonel in the army; to Adolphus Fitzclarence, Esq., a Captain in the navy; and to the Rev. Augustus Fitzclarence, respectively, the title and precedence of the younger son of a Marquis of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: and also has been pleased to grant to Sophia, wife of Sir Philip Sidney; to Mary, wife of Charles Richard Fox, Esq., a Lieutenant Colonel in the army; and to Augusta, widow of the Honourable John Kennedy Erskine, respectively, the title and precedence of the daughter of a Marquis of the said United Kingdom. And also to command, that the said grant be registered in his Majesty's College of Arms."

It is necessary now to take a transient notice of some occurrences in those parts of the continent bearing a particular relation to Great Britain. At the beginning of the year, revolutionary symptoms manifested themselves in the kingdom of Hanover. The university of Gottingen, which had long been noted for its republican principles, did not remain an inactive observer of the events in Belgium. The professors and students united in lauding the acts of the insurgents at Brussels, and in spreading abroad doctrines calculated to excite a similar

spirit among the Hanoverians. To the proclamations issued against these practices by the Duke of Cambridge, no regard was paid, but, on the contrary, the smiths were occupied day and night in the manufacture of swords, pikes, and other weapons; while attempts were made to gain over the peasants and miners of the Hartz forest. At length, the students and disaffected inhabitants closed the gates against the military, barricaded the streets, and dispersed the civil authorities.

The governor-general being thus reduced to the necessity of stronger measures, suspended the university, dismissed the students, imprisoned two of the factious professors, and surrounded the city with troops. These measures, with threats of others still heavier, if order were not restored, had the desired effect: the provisional council dissolved themselves, the king's soldiers were admitted, and the college resumed its proper academic functions.

Meanwhile, Belgium continued in a state of ferment; but the national congress persevered in debates upon the choice of a sovereign. The Prince of Orange had a party in his favour, while the majority, being inclined to the French interest, chose the duke of Nemours, younger son of Louis Philippe, and as yet a mere child. The father of the minor refused his assent to the proposition, more, as was supposed, in deference to the will of foreign powers, than to his own inclination; and in consequence the Belgians were obliged to renew their labours, and seek for a monarch in another direction. Their choice fell upon Prince Leopold, of Saxe Cobourg, who, on the 4th of June, was elected by a considerable majority. After the decision, a deputation of ten members was appointed, with instructions to proceed to London, for

the purpose of announcing the important information to the Prince. His Royal Highness at first declined accepting the proffered crown ; but after three weeks' deliberation, he altered his mind, and in a formal reply expressed his readiness to take upon himself the important charge.

On Saturday, the 16th of July, the sovereign elect left London for Brussels, where he made his public entry on the following Thursday, and, in sight of the assembled people, took the oath to observe the constitution, and maintain the national independence and integrity. The day was joyously spent, and at night the city was splendidly illuminated.

Leopold the First, however, soon found that his new throne was far from being a bed of roses. Immediately after his election, a formal protest was made against the measure, and the whole proceedings of the conference, by the king of Holland, who followed up this act by a breach of the armistice that had been concluded between the conflicting parties. Thus the civic processions and festive entertainments of the king of Belgium, were converted into warlike operations ; and instead of enjoying a peaceful crown, he had to fight for his own existence. In less than a month after the entrance of Leopold into Brussels, the Dutch troops, under the command of the Prince of Orange, seconded by the Duke of Saxe Weimar, appeared in great force on the frontiers ; and a battle ensued, when the recreant Belgians, though led by their sovereign in person, abandoned him on the field, and fled. Leopold himself escaped, and returned, overwhelmed in chagrin, to his capital, from whence he sent expresses to the French and English courts, demanding succour. The former despatched, promptly enough, fifty thousand men to his assistance ; and the latter equipped a squadron of

ships under admiral Codrington, to watch the movements of the Dutch, and prevent their entrance into the Scheldt.

On considering these circumstances, the observer could not fail to be struck with the remarkable fact, that the two princes, William of Orange, and Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, after having been rivals for the fair hand of England's heiress, should be now competitors in the field of battle for the crown of Belgium. Another singular feature in this strife was, that while the King of Great Britain espoused the cause of the elected king, the brother of his royal consort was actually fighting by the side of the Prince of Orange.

In addition to the calamities of war, the north of Europe was at this time visited by a pestilential scourge of the most tremendous description, and one hitherto unknown in these regions. While the Russian armies were engaged in the attempt to subjugate Poland, the Indian cholera-morbus broke out among them, and quickly spread with deadly effect into Germany, Hungary, and the neighbouring countries. At length, the contagion made its appearance in Hamburgh; on which the British government took the alarm, and began to adopt measures to keep the evil from our shores. The quarantine laws were put in force; a form of prayer was ordered to be drawn up, to be read in churches; a board of health was appointed, and medical persons, of superior intelligence, were sent to the infected places abroad, to make such observations on the malady and treatment as were requisite to provide against it, in case of its nearer approach.

CHAPTER VI.

A.D. 1831.

THE 14th of June being the day appointed for the meeting of the second parliament of William the Fourth, the Right Honourable Charles Manners Sutton was unanimously re-elected Speaker of the House of Commons, with singular marks of approbation.

On the 21st, his Majesty opened the session in person, with the following speech.

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I have availed myself of the earliest opportunity of resorting to your advice and assistance, after the dissolution of the late parliament. Having had recourse to that measure for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my people on the expediency of a reform in the representation, I have now to recommend that important question to your earliest and most attentive consideration ; confident that, in any measures which you may prepare for its adjustment, you will carefully adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution, by which the prerogatives of the crown, the authority of both houses of parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people, are equally secured.—The assurances of a friendly disposition, which I continue to receive from all foreign powers, encourage the hope that, notwithstanding the civil commotions which have disturbed some parts of Europe, and the contest now existing in Poland, the general peace will be maintained. To the preservation of this blessing my most anxious care will be constantly directed. The discussions which have taken place on the affairs of Belgium have not yet been brought to a conclusion ; but the most complete agreement continues to subsist between the powers whose plenipotentiaries have been engaged in the conferences of London. The principle on which those conferences have been conducted, has been that of not interfering with the right of the people to regulate their internal affairs, and to establish their government according to their own views of what may be most conducive to their future welfare and independence, under

the sole condition, sanctioned by the practice of nations, and founded on the principles of public law, that, in the exercise of that undoubted right, the security of neighbouring states should not be endangered.—A series of injuries and insults, for which, notwithstanding repeated remonstrances, all reparation was withheld, compelled me at last to order a squadron of my fleet to appear before Lisbon with a peremptory demand of satisfaction. A prompt compliance with that demand prevented the necessity of further measures: but I have to regret that I have not yet been enabled to re-establish my diplomatic relations with the Portuguese government.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you, and I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal, to make adequate provision for the public service, as well as for the farther application of the sums granted by the last parliament: always keeping in view the necessity of a wise and wholesome economy in every branch of the public expenditure.”

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“It gives me great satisfaction to state to you, that the large reduction of taxes which took place in the last, and in the present year, with a view to the relief of the labouring classes of the community, has not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the public income. I trust that such additional means as may be required to supply a part of the deficiency occasioned by these reductions, may be found, without any material abridgment of the comforts of my people. To assist the industry, to improve the resources, and to maintain the credit of the country on sound principles, and on a safe and lasting foundation, will be at all times the objects of my solicitude, in the promotion of which I look with confidence to your zealous co-operation.—It is with deep concern that I have to announce to you the continued progress of a formidable disease, to which my attention had been early directed, in the eastern parts of Europe. Information having been more recently received, that it had extended its ravages to ports in the Baltic, from whence there is a great commercial intercourse with my dominions, I have directed that all the precautions should be taken which experience has recommended as most effectual for guarding against the introduction of so dangerous a malady into this country.—Great distress has unhappily prevailed in some districts, and more particularly in a part of the western counties of Ireland; to relieve which, in the most

pressing cases, I have not hesitated to authorize the application of such means as were immediately available for that purpose. But assistance of this nature is necessarily limited in its amount, and can only be temporary in its effect. The possibility, therefore, of introducing any measures, which, by assisting the improvement of the natural resources of the country, may tend to prevent the recurrence of such evils, must be a subject of the most anxious interest to me, and to you of the most grave and cautious consideration. Local disturbances, unconnected with any political causes, have taken place, both in this part of the United Kingdom, and in Ireland. In the county of Clare, and in the adjoining parts of Roscommon and Galway, a system of violence and outrage had for some time been carried on, to an alarming extent; for the repression of which, the constitutional authority of the law has been vigorously and successfully exerted. By these means, the necessity of enacting new laws to strengthen the executive government with further powers, will, I trust, be prevented. To avert such a necessity has been, and ever will be, my most earnest desire; but if it should unfortunately arise, I do not doubt your firm resolution to maintain the peace and order of society, by the adoption of such measures as may be required for their more effectual protection."

At the conclusion of the speech, his Majesty descended from the throne, and returned to St. James's, amidst the universal acclamations of an immense number of spectators.

In the Lords, the address was moved by the Duke of Norfolk, and seconded by Earl Mulgrave. In the Commons, the mover and seconder were, the Honourable Mr. Pelham, and Sir James Johnstone. After some warm altercation in the former, on a question of order—and in both houses, respecting the conduct of ministers in not acting with proper vigour to suppress the riotous proceedings occasioned by the late illuminations—the addresses were agreed to, without any amendment being proposed.

On the 24th, Lord John Russell again brought forward, in the name of the government, the measure of

reform; which, in their opinion, was calculated to maintain unimpaired the prerogatives of the crown, and the rights and liberties of the people. After taking a retrospective sketch of what had occurred in the late parliament, and eulogizing the spirit of patriotism manifested by the great body of electors throughout the kingdom, in the choice of independent representatives, his lordship proceeded to observe, that,

With regard to the general features and details of the measure, he did not think it necessary to enter particularly into them, because they were substantially the same as those of the recent bill; and as the slight alterations that had been made, were improvements intended to carry into effect its principles, it would be sufficient to leave those details till the bill went into committee. The noble lord then entered upon a long historic dissertation on the representative system, as compared with that now existing. He also stated the changes which at different periods had been made in this important part of the constitution; and adduced facts, to shew the necessity of introducing a more full reform of the abuses that, from time to time, had reduced the representation to a state unfit for such a great and enlightened country as this. It was shocking, his lordship said, to behold a majority of the members of that house returned by a few individuals. But, shocked as he was at that, he was still more shocked that our elections should furnish occasion for the exercise of every species of perjury, drunkenness, and corruption. Looking at the matter in the light of policy and wisdom, he would say that he was shocked to behold, in several places of great wealth and intelligence, and with a numerous population, a vast number of the people, who were qualified for the exercise of the elective franchise, possessed no voice whatever in the choice of their representatives. Now, his Majesty's ministers proposed to alter this system, and to introduce a better in its stead, with as little difference as possible from that in existence. They proposed to place the elections for counties, cities, and boroughs, upon the true constitutional basis. About one hundred and fifty members would be sent from the counties; the great majority of which counties would be separated into two divisions, thus affording a large population to each, and presenting many advantages to the people.

The next change would bring about one hundred and eighty members from the great towns and cities, not omitting

such places as Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham, which were excluded, from the present system. Ministers would also give representatives to the woollen manufacture, to the cotton manufacture, to the mining and coal districts, to the potteries, and to all those parts with which trade, industry, and wealth were connected. His Majesty's government felt that those important interests should have their own representatives in parliament, to watch over and protect them. His lordship observed, that when this great change should have been effected, there would be no need for a deputation to come from Leeds, to consult the chancellor of the exchequer respecting any proposed alteration of the laws relating to the peculiar trade and manufactures of that place. They would have, then, members in that house, who would be fully competent to explain what the general interests of trade, and the particular interests of the place they represented, demanded on that subject. Thus, by carrying the present plan into effect, they would obtain a number of members in that house, who might not perhaps amuse them with declamatory and eloquent speeches, but who would be capable of rendering practical service to the country in parliament.

There was another class of members, the introduction of whom would add materially to the stability and welfare of the country. He alluded to a certain number of boroughs and towns, with an average population of four, five, or six thousand, which would send about one hundred members to parliament, who would not represent any particular interest, but the general interest of the nation. It had been suggested, that they should disfranchise all the boroughs, and give more members to the counties and large towns, to represent the commercial and manufacturing interests. But, after amply providing for those interests, there was still something wanting. There was a number of persons who could not be said to belong to those interests, and who were yet worthy of seats within these walls, and highly qualified to render the nation great public service. To enable such persons, therefore, to gain admission into parliament, certain boroughs would be retained. But when he spoke of members of this description, he did not mean to imply that they should be returned by means of nomination. He meant that, by a fair and free election, persons obtaining the suffrages of the electors of those boroughs, would find their way into that house, and in greater number than at present.

In the first instance, it was proposed to give the right of voting to £10 householders in cities and towns, and in counties they proposed to extend it to freeholders, copyholders, and leaseholders. It was also proposed to extend the right of

voting in counties to those persons who were leaseholders for a long term of years; thus rectifying an omission in the former bill; and, instead of fourteen years, the term of seven years should be sufficient for the payers of a rent of fifty pounds.

After some observations on the probable effect of this measure in preventing bribery, the noble lord proceeded to notice some of the objections that had been raised against the proposed measure.

In the first place, it had been stated, that this plan was far more extensive than necessity required. The only answer he should give, was, that nothing short of it would satisfy the people. The inequality of the plan had also been made an objection; and it was asked, why give to Tavistock and Knaresborough as many representatives as to such populous towns as Halifax and Bradford? But inconsistencies of this kind were not grievances. Wherever a practical evil was pointed out, a remedy would be applied to it; but they trusted to be able to defend the want of uniformity in the plan, against those who attacked it. Some inequality there might be in the circumstance that Tavistock, with four or five hundred inhabitants, should return as many members as Halifax, that had four times the number. But was it not worse, that Grattan and Old Sarum should send as many representatives as the most populous and wealthy places? They got rid of that anomaly: and thus their plan of representation, if not quite regular, was far more so than the existing system. Besides the defect of not having made a perfectly symmetrical plan, he was charged with taking an unfair basis—or endeavouring to promote the views of private interests, and to benefit particular persons. His answer was, that he took the original plan from a well-known statistical book, in which, however, there were many local errors.

It had been said, that he was strangely inconsistent in taking population as a basis, instead of being guided by the number of £10 houses. He had not adopted that course, because it would have involved an unfairness and an inequality in the manner of ascertaining the number of those houses. Errors had been suspected in the returns, and his anticipations proved correct. The mode adopted was to write letters to certain authorities to refer to the parish officers, and to send persons into the neighbourhood of the boroughs to ascertain the exact number of the £10 houses. The result of these inquiries varied so much from the returns to the tax office, that his doubts were confirmed. Having made these explanations, the noble lord summed up his statement, by saying, when he proposed

a reform of parliament—when he proposed that the people should send to that house their real representatives, to deliberate on their wants, and to consult for their interests, to consider their grievances, and attend to their desires—when he proposed that they should in fact, as they did in theory, possess the power of holding the purse-strings of the crown, he felt convinced that he was laying the foundation of effecting the greatest changes for the comfort and well-being of the people. Laws would no longer be passed for the sole benefit of government, or for that of particular individuals; they would be no longer passed by men roused at midnight to vote for what they knew not, or against that of which they had heard not, a syllable, merely because the leader of their party told them so to vote. Laws in a reformed parliament would be cautiously proposed, and cautiously deliberated. Who would maintain that government could do nothing with respect to the misery or happiness of a people? Let those who made the assertion look at Ireland. What was the cause of the wretched state of that country, but the want of a due, parental, and kind attention on the part of government to the condition of the people? If they identified that house with the people of the three kingdoms, they might hope that the prosperity of the country was accomplished. In giving to an enlightened and powerful people the power of having their real representatives in parliament, they would furnish the means of carrying on unimpaired the constitution, without endangering the prerogatives of the crown, without injuring the authority of parliament, and in accordance with the rights, liberties, and interests of the nation.

SIR ROBERT PEELE rose as soon as Lord John Russell sat down, and professed at once his unaltered sentiments in opposition to the bill, but declined entering into a discussion of its merits till the second reading, which, at his suggestion, was postponed from Thursday, the 30th of June, as originally intended, till Monday, the 4th of July.

Accordingly, on that day, after Lord John Russell had made his motion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answer to some questions put to him by Mr. Estcourt, one of the members for Oxford University, stated, that a clause restricting the right of voting to householders paying their rent half-yearly, had been introduced by mistake; and that as soon as ministers had discovered its tendency, they determined to abandon it. The question was then put from the chair, and the debate was opened by Sir J. B. WALSH, who said, that the more he considered the bearings and tendencies of this measure, the more he was impressed with the danger it would produce to the British constitution, and to the whole system of social

order. He should, therefore, firmly oppose the bill in all its stages, confident, that in so doing, he was contributing his aid towards averting imminent danger, and probably ruin, from his country. He concluded with moving that the bill be read that day six months.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. CLINTON, who objected to the pledges which had been required from candidates during the late elections ; observing, that if this system was persevered in, the house would lose all pretensions to the character of a deliberative assembly, and would become the mere puppet of the popular will.

On the other side, SIR JAMES MACKINTOSH defended the measure. With regard to the dangers apprehended from the bill, he looked upon them as visionary. The real danger arose from the schemes of those who wished to subdue what was called the democratical spirit, for the purpose of lawless power. Such had been the case in France ; and such would be the case here, if the power of the enemies of reform equalled their will. A great deal had been said concerning what was called corporation robbery. Now, this measure merely proposed to withdraw a public trust from those who had abused it, and to place it in the hands of those who would use it better. The right to send members to parliament, was the right to share in the government of men ; and the Revolution established the great principle, that those who held political power, held it not as a property, but as a trust. He was apprehensive that a violent opposition to the measure would sow the seeds of permanent discord between the two orders of the state, and cause bitter consequences hereafter.

After some other members had delivered their opinions, an adjournment took place. The next day, the debate was renewed, when SIR JOHN MALCOLM, member for Launceston opposed the bill, and observed, that, although returned for a close borough, he considered himself the guardian of the interests of the country at large. Were this measure to pass, it would shut the avenues to that house against the monied and colonial interests, which were now only represented through the medium of the boroughs that were by this measure to be extinguished.

But the principal speaker, in this night's debate, was Mr. MACAULAY, a young barrister, and the nominee of the Marquis of Lansdowne for the borough of Calne. After descanting on the imperfections of many of our civil and political institutions, in which barbarism and civilization went side by side ; he said, it would be found that the barbarism belonged to the government, and the civilization to the people. Now,

it was because he wished them to run concurrently, that he supported this measure of reform ; and proud he should be, to the latest hour of his existence, to contribute to the success of this great cause. The peroration of this speech, which elicited great applause, was as follows. "The country, and their children for ages to come, would call this the Second Bill of Rights—the Greater Charter of the Liberties of England. He did believe, that the year 1831 was destined to exhibit to mankind the first example of a great, complicated, and deeply-rooted system of abuses removed without violence, bloodshed, and rapine—all points fully debated, all forms observed, the fruits of industry not destroyed, and the authority of the law not suspended. These were things which might well make Englishmen proud of the age and country in which they lived. These were things which might make them look with confidence to the future destinies of the human race—which might make them look forward to a long series of tranquil and happy years, during which, nothing would disturb the concord of a popular government and a loyal people ;—of years, in which, if war should be inevitable, it would find the people a united nation ;—of years, pre-eminently distinguished by the mitigation of public burdens, by the prosperity of industry, by the reformation of jurisprudence, and by all the victories of peace, in which, far more than in military triumphs, consisted the true prosperity of states, and the true glory of statesmen. It was with such feelings and hopes that he gave his most cordial assent to this measure of reform, which, in itself, he considered desirable, and which, in the present temper of the public mind, appeared to him indispensably necessary to the repose of the empire, and the stability of the government."

The discussion on this day was closed by SIR GEORGE MURRAY, one of the late ministers, who also concluded his speech with a prophecy, but one of a quite opposite character to that of the member for Calne. He said, that this bill would have the effect of raising up another Cromwell, who was, perhaps, even then exulting in secret at the success of the present measure ; and saying to himself at that moment, in the words of his prototype Oliver, "The Lord hath delivered them into my hands." The period for the appearance of this person in the field had not yet arrived. He would not be seen until the fifth act of the piece, and then, perhaps, he would be seen endeavouring to gather together the scattered fragments of the constitution, which the measure of the noble lord would have scattered and dispersed. He would be seen again endeavouring to form a House of Commons, but on this condition, that no member should enter who was not pledged to the opinions

of the usurper. The real Cromwell would also be seen endeavouring to form a House of Lords, not, like the present, endowed with the influence of property, but the phantom of a peerage only; and he would take care likewise, before they proceeded to deliberate, that the individual appointed to preside over them should administer to them proper advice. What might be the character of a House of Lords so composed, he knew not; but of this he was confident, that there was too much magnanimity in the present House of Lords, to allow them to be in the slightest degree influenced by such a mean attempt.

Another adjournment then took place till the following day, when SIR ROBERT PEEL went over the whole ground of argument historically and politically. He maintained that the small boroughs were not an usurpation on the rights of the people, but that they had existed at an early period, and had continued ever since. Although it might not be easy to defend the sale of these boroughs, yet it would be impossible to eradicate the evil, without depriving the country of much good, that more than counterbalanced it. There had been no reform of parliament for more than four hundred years; but so elastic were the principles which gave it force, in accommodating themselves to the spirit of the age, and the circumstances of the people, that the house had governed the country better than any other country on earth had been ever governed. Feeling thus, he gave his opposition to the measure, because in his conscience he believed that it went to diminish, and not to increase, the security of the permanent liberties and happiness of the people of England.

Lord John Russell closed the debate with a defence of his plan; and at five o'clock in the morning, a division took place, the numbers being, for the second reading, 367; and for the amendment, 231; leaving a majority of 136 in favour of ministers.

On the 12th, Lord John Russell having moved that the house should resolve itself into a committee on the reform bill, a scene arose, unprecedented in the history of parliament. In the first place, Lord Maitland rose to oppose the disfranchisement of the borough of Appleby, and moved that counsel be heard against the bill, as far as regarded the interests of that place. After a

warm discussion, the motion was negatived by a majority of 97; the numbers being, for it, 187, and 284 against it. An adjournment of the debate was then moved, and disposed of in a similar manner. The original motion that the speaker do leave the chair, being again put, an amendment was proposed, that the house do now adjourn. This motion produced another vehement altercation, the conclusion of which placed ministers in a powerful majority. After five more distinct motions for the adjournment of the debate, which were also defeated, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to a question of Sir Charles Wetherell, the leader in this memorable conflict, said he was anxious that the house should have the fullest opportunity to discuss the question on the ensuing evening, if the committee was appointed, as a matter of form. This was agreed to; the bill was committed; the chairman reported, and obtained leave to sit again. The house then broke up at half-past seven in the morning.

It would extend the history of the reform bill, during its progress through the house, to an immeasurable extent, were we to go over all the tedious altercations excited by the discussion of its several clauses. With few interruptions, and some trifling amendments, the bill went through the committee, and on the 15th of September was ordered to be engrossed, there being only one dissenting voice against it. On the 19th of the same month, Lord John Russell moved the third reading of the bill, when there appeared 113 for, and 58 against it. Two days more, however, were occupied in the debate on the question that the bill do pass, in the course of which, several speakers exerted their oratorical powers upon the subject, but with little

novelty of argument. Among these, none was more animated than Sir Charles Wetherell, who warned the House of Lords to take an example from France, where concessions had only been followed by destruction. The learned gentleman concluded with expressing his conviction that the bill would subvert the throne, the monarch, the church, and, ultimately, the liberties of the people. Upon the division, the numbers were—ayes, 345 ; noes, 236 : leaving a majority of 109 for the bill.

The next day, Lord John Russell, accompanied by a number of members, appeared at the bar of the upper house, and delivered the bill to the Lord Chancellor; after which it was read the first time, for form, and ordered to be read the second time on the third of October.

On Monday, the first of August, the ceremony of Opening the New London Bridge took place, and was honoured by the presence of their Majesties. The King had been pleased to command that the procession should be by water, in order that the people might have the most complete view of the passing scene; and the following were the arrangements for this brilliant spectacle.

A triple awning extended over the whole width of the bridge as far as the second piers. This, and the pavilion at the end, were covered with the colours of all nations, upwards of one hundred and fifty of which, with other banners, floated from the top of the bridge. In the grand tent was a throne, and in front of it a table, for their Majesties, and the members of the Royal Family. Under the canopy ran two long tables, capable of accommodating fifteen hundred persons. These tables were for the aldermen, and other members of the corporation; the centre being left open for the procession. The flooring used for entertainments at Guildhall was laid down, and a magnificent carpet spread throughout the royal tent; at each of the four corners of which, stood a man in armour. Along the whole line of procession, and on every part of the bridge laid out for the banquet, the boards were carpeted.

To facilitate the passage down the river, two parallel lines of vessels were formed into a passage of about 150 feet wide, consisting of a double, and in many cases a triple, line of barges, steamers, yachts, and craft of every description; which extended from Somerset House almost to the new bridge, when the line gradually spread on each side, to afford space for the barges to land their respective parties. The termination of the lines at these points was formed by the city barges and shallops, which were filled with company, and provided with bands of music. Several gun-brigs were brought up the river, from which, and the wharfs, salutes were fired occasionally. On the terrace of Somerset House, several tiers of seats were erected; and every place which could command a view, was thronged with spectators. The stairs leading from Somerset House, as well as the platform, were covered with dark cloth. Over that part where their Majesties were to pass, red cloth was laid. The barges containing the officers and members of the Boards of Admiralty, Customs, Excise, and Trinity House, were brought up at an earlier hour than that fixed for the arrival of the royal party. By this means, the embarkation was made in the utmost order; each barge, as it received the respective companies on board, dropped down, and took its station in the line.

The Royal Family, and their Majesties' suites, assembled at the palace about two o'clock; shortly after which, the procession was formed in the gardens. The King, who appeared in the Windsor uniform, entered the last carriage, accompanied by the Queen and the Duchesses of Cumberland and Cambridge. The other carriages were filled by the rest of the members of the Royal Family, and persons of distinction.

The appearance of the metropolis, along the whole line of procession, was in every respect the same as on a high festival.

At three o'clock, the grand national standard was hoisted over the centre of Somerset House, and announced the arrival of their Majesties, whose appearance on the steps descending to the platform, was hailed by cheers which were almost deafening. The awnings of the state barge had been previously removed by the royal command, that the people might be indulged with a full view of the august company. The number of barges forming the procession, amounted to near thirty; and the whole space between the lines, as well as a great part of that without, seemed studded with a moving mass of glittering splendour, while flags of every colour, and of all nations, and the gay attire of the almost countless thousands on the river and its banks, gave the spectacle an indescribable effect.

Shortly after four o'clock, loud and general shouts from the river, announced their Majesties' approach; upon which a

royal salute was fired from the brig stationed off Southwark, the bells of the churches struck up merry peals, and in a few minutes the foremost of the royal barges were discovered making their way in stately grandeur.

The stairs on the London side of the Bridge had been covered with crimson cloth, and at the bottom their Majesties were received by Mr. Routh, who gave his Majesty his arm; and by Mr. Jones, as chairman of the Bridge committee. On stepping ashore, the King said to these gentlemen, "Mr. Jones and Mr. Routh, I am very glad to see you on London Bridge. It is certainly a most beautiful edifice; and the spectacle is the grandest and the most delightful, in every respect, that I ever had the pleasure to witness." While the King paused to survey the scene around him, the air was rent with acclamations, which his Majesty acknowledged by taking off his hat, and bowing to the people. He then walked up the tremendous flight of steps without the slightest appearance of fatigue. Upon reaching the top, the sword and keys of the city were tendered to him by the Lord Mayor. The chairman of the committee next presented his Majesty with a gold medal, having on one side an impression of the King's head, and, on the reverse, a view of the new Bridge, with the dates of the present ceremony, and of the laying of the first stone. The gentlemen of the committee were attired in uniform, consisting of a blue coat, with buttons impressed with his Majesty's portrait, and white waistcoats and trowsers.

As soon as the whole of the royal party had assembled in the pavilion, their Majesties proceeded to walk over the Bridge, which was considered as the opening of the structure. His Majesty shewed himself from the parapets on either side to the multitudes below, and was much struck by the appearance which the river presented. Just as the royal procession reached the Surrey side of the Bridge, Mr. Green, accompanied by a gentleman, ascended in his balloon; with which spectacle, their Majesties, who observed it closely, were much pleased.



During the procession on the Bridge, the King and Queen scattered among the people, with a liberal hand, silver medals, of which the obverse and reverse are here represented.

On returning to the pavilion, the company sat down to the banquet. At the royal table, the principal guests were thus placed. On the right of the King were seated the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Sussex, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, and Prince George of Cumberland. On the left of her Majesty sat the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, and Prince George of Cambridge.

As soon as the royal visitors had concluded their repast, the Lord Mayor rose, and said, "His most gracious Majesty has condescended to permit me to propose a toast. I therefore do myself the high honour to propose, that we drink His Most Gracious Majesty's Health, with four times four."

The company rose, and, after cheering him in the most enthusiastic manner, sang the national anthem of "God save the King." His Majesty bowed to all around, and appeared to be much pleased.

Alderman Sir Claudius Hunter then rose, and said, "I am honoured with the permission of his Majesty to propose a toast. I therefore beg all his good subjects here assembled, to rise, and to drink, that 'Health and every Blessing may attend Her Majesty the Queen.'" Which was accordingly done, with the utmost enthusiasm.

The Lord Mayor then presented a gold cup, of great beauty, to the King; who said, taking the cup, "I cannot but refer, on this occasion, to the great work which has been accomplished by the citizens of London. The City of London has been renowned for its magnificent improvements, and we are now commemorating a most extraordinary instance of their skill and talent. I shall propose the source from whence this vast improvement sprung, 'The Trade and Commerce of the City of London.'"

The King then drank what is called the "loving cup," of which every other member of the Royal Family present, most cordially partook.

His Majesty next drank the health of the Lord Mayor, and Lady Mayoress—for which his lordship, in a few words, expressive of the deepest gratitude, thanked his Majesty. The chief magistrate soon after was created a Baronet.

At about six o'clock, the King rose, and, bowing to the company, intimated his intention to bid farewell.

The procession had a more imposing appearance on its return than before, in consequence of its being joined by several of the City barges, including that of the Lord Mayor. In a few moments after their arrival at Somerset House, the royal party entered their carriages, and returned to the palace, escorted in the same manner as on setting out in the morning.

Another exhibition of royalty took place on the following day, in the procession of their Majesties to the House of Lords, that the King might give his assent to the Queen's dower-bill, accompanied by his august consort, to express her thanks to the two houses of Parliament, for the ample provision which they had made for her maintenance in the event of her widowhood.

Her Majesty left the palace in state a short time before three o'clock, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Augusta, and escorted by a detachment of the Blues. She arrived at the House of Lords at a quarter past three o'clock, and was received by the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, and Lord Durham, who conducted her through the painted chamber into the robing room; the ladies of her suite immediately following. In a quarter of an hour afterwards, his Majesty, who also came in state, reached the house, attended by the great officers of his suite.

At about half past three, the Queen, with the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Kent, and the ladies of her train, entered the House of Lords, preceded by her chamberlain, Earl Howe. The Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Norfolk, and Earl Grey, ushered her Majesty to her chair of state, which was covered with crimson velvet, and placed on the right of the throne, and level with it.

As soon as her Majesty entered the house, all the peers, and a number of peeresses, who had been previously admitted, rose up, and made their obeisance.

At a quarter before four, his Majesty entered the house, and having taken his seat on the throne, the Usher of the Black Rod was directed to summon the Commons.

Accordingly, the Speaker, followed by a number of members, shortly afterwards appeared at the bar, and thus addressed the Sovereign :—

“ May it please your Majesty,

“ We, your Majesty’s most faithful Commons, appear before you with respect, and attachment to your Majesty’s house, and beg most humbly to announce to your Majesty, that, in conformity to your Majesty’s most gracious recommendation, we have passed a bill to make provision for Her most gracious Majesty, in the event of your Majesty’s decease ; and with dutiful respect we now present such bill to your Majesty for acceptance.”

The Queen’s dowry bill being then read by the clerk, his Majesty gave it the royal assent with the usual formalities. Her Majesty then rose, and made an obeisance three times to the two houses of Parliament. This ceremony ended, the King and Queen retired, accompanied, as before, by the different officers of their suite.

After a short adjournment, on the same day, the ‘house resumed its sitting ; and Earl Grey presented the following message from his Majesty, which was read first by the Lord Chancellor, and afterwards by the clerk at the table of the house :—

“ His Majesty, taking into consideration, that since parliament made provision for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and Her Highness the Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent, circumstances have occurred which make it necessary that a more suitable provision should be made for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and for the suitable education and maintenance of her Highness the Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent, relies on the affection and attachment of the Commons, to take the necessary measures for making such provision.”

A similar message was the same evening delivered to the House of Commons, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer ; and both were ordered to be taken into consideration on the morrow. Accordingly, Earl Grey then

moved an address to his Majesty in answer to the royal message. His lordship, after some observations upon the importance of making a further provision for the support of the honour and dignity of the Princess Victoria, as the presumptive heiress to the throne, stated, that, in consequence of the election of Prince Leopold to the Belgic throne, the allowance of six thousand a year, which he had hitherto made to his sister and niece, was withdrawn.

Lord Althorp, in the other house, gave the same account, as an argument for granting £10,000 per annum additional to the income of the Duchess. The resolution was agreed to.

On the 11th of this month, the island of Barbadoes suffered dreadfully by a hurricane, unexampled even in that region of whirlwind and tempest. The government house was unroofed; every church was destroyed or injured; the custom-house was blown down; and the barracks buried in their ruins forty soldiers. The sugar mills were totally destroyed, and the crops rooted up, by the storm. Above three thousand persons perished, and many families were ruined. Most of the other islands experienced the effects of the visitation, which extended also to Cuba, Hayti, and Jamaica; but none of these suffered so severely as Barbadoes. On former occasions, the British parliament, and the people at large, had always been prompt in administering relief to the afflicted, by national grants, and public subscriptions. But in the present case, though more calamitous than any that had ever occurred before, the legislative assemblies were silent, and private sympathy was suspended, or absorbed, by political interests.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1831.

WHEN the King went in person to dissolve his first parliament, it is said, that, while placing the crown upon his own head, he turned to the Chancellor, and exclaimed, "Now, this, my lord, is my coronation day."

Whether this story be correct or not, it is certain, that the ceremonial of a public inauguration, according to ancient usage, was neither intended by his Majesty, nor by his ministers, till the subject, as a constitutional one, was brought before the House of Lords by the Duke of Wellington.

On the 4th of July, his grace asked Earl Grey, whether he had received any instructions on the subject of the coronation? The answer being in the negative, the Duke of Wellington wished to know, if it was not necessary that his Majesty should, within a specific period, take certain oaths connected with his coronation? The noble premier said, he was aware of the oaths to which he referred; but he did not know that the law prescribed any particular time, or place, where they should be administered. As to the delay that had occurred, he should perhaps, hereafter, have to explain the cause of it. The coronation had hitherto been a matter of very great expense, and it was important, that the solemn compact which was then ratified between the King and the People, should be effected at as low a charge as possible. He repeated, however, that he had no commands from his Majesty on the subject, but that the obligations prescribed

by law, to be entered into by the King, should be taken in some way or other. Here the conversation ended; but the effect of it, not long afterwards, appeared in the appointment of a court to determine the pretensions of those persons who claimed a right to assist at the ceremony of the coronation. It was publicly announced, however, that some of the accustomed services would be dispensed with, as it was not intended that there should either be any procession from, or a dinner in, Westminster Hall.

The coronation of William the Fourth, thus confined to the interior of the Abbey, and shorn of the chivalric honours and gorgeous pageantry of ancient times, was fixed for the 8th of September.

At early dawn on that day Westminster Abbey, and all the passages leading to it, presented a most animating scene. Soon after five o'clock, a royal salute was fired by the artillery, and, about six, the Household troops were distributed through the whole line of procession.

At six o'clock the arrivals became frequent, and from that time till the hour when the different entrances to the Abbey were closed, the successive arrival of individuals, who were brought to the Abbey, either by their rank, their official duties, or by curiosity, was sufficiently rapid to prevent those who had previously arrived, from suffering severely from fatigue and ennui. About seven o'clock, the services of the officers at arms were called into requisition by the influx of Peers and Peeresses, whom it was their duty to marshal to their respective places. At nine o'clock, the members of the House of Commons, being themselves their own heralds, took possession of the gallery assigned to them, and shortly after the doors of the Abbey were closed.

The royal procession began to move from the Palace at a quarter past ten o'clock. The moment the King's carriage appeared, a cheer burst simultaneously from twenty thousand voices. Such a reception could not fail to be gratifying to their Majesties, and they shewed that they were pleased with it. His Majesty, who was dressed in an admiral's uniform, looked well. Her Majesty was dressed in white, and wore some brilliants in her head-dress. As the procession passed, the bands, which

were stationed at different points, played, "God save the King." The enthusiasm of the people was carried to the highest pitch. As far as the eye could reach, hats, handkerchiefs, and flags were seen waving in the air.

The following was the order of the procession :—

A squadron of Life Guards.

The two carriages of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and attendants, with their proper escort.

The two carriages of the Duchess of Cambridge in the same order.

The carriage of the Duke of Sussex, with his escort.

The two carriages of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, with their royal highnesses' attendants and escort.

Then followed on foot, The King's Barge Master, and Forty-eight Watermen.

Next, Ten of their Majesties' carriages, each drawn by six horses, conveying the royal suite, and followed by a squadron of Life Guards.

Then came his Majesty's Equerries and Aides-de-Camp, on horseback; the Deputy Adjutant-General; Deputy Quartermaster-General; Deputy Adjutant-General of the Royal Artillery; the Quartermaster-General; the Adjutant-General; the Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief; and the Master of the Buck-hounds.

To these succeeded six of his Majesty's horses, with rich trappings, each led by two grooms.—Then came the Deputy Knight Marshal, followed by Marshalmen, four in rank.—Next, the Exons and Clerk of the Cheque of the Yeomen of the Guard, on horseback, at the head of one hundred Yeomen, four and four. These preceded the STATE COACH, drawn by eight horses, attended by a Yeoman of the Guard at each wheel, and two footmen at each door, and the horses on either side by four grooms; the Gold Stick, Lord Combermere; and the Captain of the Yeomen, the Marquess of Clanricarde, riding one on the right, and the other on the left of the Royal carriage, in which were the KING and QUEEN, attended by the Duchess of Gordon, in the absence of the Duchess Dowager of Leeds, Mistress of the Robes, and the Countess of Brownlow, Lady of the Bedchamber. A squadron of Life Guards closed the procession, which proceeded by the route of Pall Mall, Charing Cross, Whitehall, and Parliament-street, and arrived at the Abbey at a quarter past eleven o'clock.

The great Officers of State, the two Archbishops, the Noblemen appointed to carry the Regalia, and the Bishops who were to support their Majesties, assembled before ten in the Jerusa-

lem Chamber, where the Regalia were delivered by the Lord Chamberlain to the Lord High Constable, and by him to the Deputy Great Chamberlain, who consigned them to the nobles by whom they were to be borne. On the arrival of their Majesties, they were received by the Great Officers of State, who conducted them to their robing-chambers at the west entrance. When robed, they advanced up the nave into the choir; the choristers of Westminster, the Chapel Royal, and St. Paul's, singing the Anthem, "I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord."

The Procession moved in the following order:—

Officers of Arms. The Dean and Prebendaries of Westminster; his Majesty's Vice-Chamberlain; Comptroller of the Household; Treasurer of the Household, bearing the bag with the medals; the Lord Chamberlain; the Lord High Steward; the Lord Chancellor of Ireland; the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain; the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

PRINCESSES OF THE BLOOD ROYAL, viz. The Duchess of Cambridge; the Duchess of Cumberland; and the Duchess of Gloucester. The Queen's Vice-Chamberlain.

THE QUEEN'S REGALIA, viz. The Ivory Rod, with the Dove, borne by Earl Cawdor, the Lord Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household; the Sceptre, with the Cross, borne by the Earl of Jersey; her Majesty's Crown, carried by the Duke of Beaufort; with two Serjeants-at-arms on either hand.

THE QUEEN, in her royal robes, her train borne by the Duchess of Gordon, assisted by six daughters of Earls. On her right, the Archbishop of Armagh, and on her left, the Bishop of Winchester, each attended by five Gentlemen Pensioners; Ladies of the Bedchamber in waiting; six Maids of Honour; Women of the Bedchamber.

THE KING'S REGALIA, viz. St. Edward's Staff, borne by the Duke of Grafton; the Golden Spurs, by the Marquis of Hastings; the Sceptre, with the Cross, by the Duke of St. Alban's; the third Sword by the Marquis of Cleveland; Curtana, by the Marquis of Salisbury; the second sword, by the Marquis of Downshire; Usher of the Black Rod; Garter King-at-Arms; Deputy Great Chamberlain of England.

PRINCES OF THE BLOOD ROYAL, viz. The Duke of Gloucester; the Duke of Sussex; the Duke of Cumberland. The High Constable of Ireland; the High Constable of Scotland; the Earl Marshal of England; the Sword of State, borne by Earl Grey; the Lord High Constable of England, the Duke of Wellington; the Sceptre, with the Dove, borne by the Duke

of Richmond ; St. Edward's Crown, borne by the Duke of Hamilton ; the Orb, by the Duke of Somerset ; the Patina, by the Bishop of Carlisle ; the Bible, by the Bishop of Chichester ; the Chalice, by the Bishop of Rochester.

THE KING, in his royal crimson robe of state. His train borne by the eldest sons of Dukes, assisted by the Master of the Robes, followed by the Groom of the Robes. On his Majesty's right walked the Archbishop of York, and on his left the Bishop of Bath and Wells ; the Groom of the Stole ; the Gold Stick of the Life Guards, in waiting ; the Master of the Horse ; Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard ; Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners ; two Lords of the Bed-chamber ; Yeomen of the Guard.

The Queen, at her entrance, ascended the theatre, and passed on the north side of her throne to the chair of state provided for her, in the east side of the theatre, where she stood, surrounded by her Ladies, until his Majesty's arrival.

The King, ascending the theatre, passed on the south side of his throne to his chair of state, on the east side of the altar.

At this moment, the view along the choir, and in the transept, was singularly attractive. At the western end of it, the choristers and musicians were stationed in the organ-loft and gallery, the former dressed in surplices, and the latter in a uniform. The front of the galleries on each side of the choir, were occupied by ladies in the most elegant and fashionable attire. Below them, and extending across the centre aisle to the steps of the theatre, stood a group of officers, dressed in every variety of uniform known to the military service of Great Britain. Among them were mingled the Yeomen of the Guard, whose antiquated dresses formed a strange contrast to the light equipments of the Foot Guards, who were allowed to pass into the choir after the procession. In the centre of the sacrarium were their Majesties, and their attendants. On their right and left were the Peers and Peeresses, and before them, in a gradually ascending gallery, were the Members of the House of Commons, mostly in military uniforms, though a few were conspicuously arrayed in the Highland costume.

Upon the conclusion of the Anthem, his Majesty, attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain, the Lord High Constable, and the Earl Marshal, and preceded by Garter, repaired to the east side of the theatre, where the Archbishop made the Recognition, and repeated the same at the south-west and north sides of the theatre, his Majesty turning towards the people on the side at which the Recognition was made : the people replied to each

demand with loud and repeated acclamations of "God save King William the Fourth;" and, at the last Recognition, the trumpets sounded, and the drums beat.

His Majesty then took his seat; and the Bible, the Chalice, and the Patina were carried to, and placed upon, the Altar, by the Bishops who had borne them.—Two Officers of the Wardrobe then spread a rich cloth of gold, and laid two cushions on the same, for their Majesties to kneel on, at the steps of the Altar.—The Archbishop of Canterbury put on his cope; and the Bishops, who were to read the litany, were also vested in their copes.

The King, attended by his supporters, and the Dean of Westminster, the great officers, the noblemen bearing the Regalia and the four Swords, going before his Majesty, passed to the Altar. Then the Queen, supported and preceded by the noblemen bearing her Majesty's Regalia as before, went also to the Altar. His Majesty, uncovered, and, kneeling upon the cushion, made his first offering of a pall, or altar-cloth of gold, which was delivered by an Officer of the Wardrobe to the Lord Chamberlain, by his Grace to the Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain, and by him to the King, who delivered it to the Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom it was placed on the Altar. The Treasurer of the Household then delivered an ingot of gold, of one pound weight, being the second offering, to the Deputy Great Chamberlain, who having presented the same to the King, his Majesty delivered it to the Archbishop, by whom it was put into the oblation-basin.

The Queen, kneeling on the left hand of his Majesty, made her offering, namely, a pall of gold, with the like ceremony. Their Majesties continued to kneel; and the prayer, "O God, who dwellest in the high and holy place," was said by the Archbishop. At the conclusion of the prayer, their Majesties arose. The King was conducted to the chair of state on the south side of the area; and the Queen to the chair on the left hand of the King. The Regalia, except the Swords, were delivered, by the several noblemen who bore the same, to the Archbishop, and by his grace, to the Dean of Westminster, who laid them on the Altar; the great officers, and the noblemen, who had borne the Regalia, going to their respective places.

After the Litany, which was read by the Bishops of Lichfield and Lincoln, followed the Communion service, the Epistle being read by the Bishop of Landaff, and the Gospel by the Bishop of Bristol. The Sermon was then preached by the Bishop of London, from 1 Pet. ii. 18, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake, whether it be

to the king as supreme, or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well."

The discourse of the learned prelate was impressively eloquent, and free from any political allusion; except the following passage reflecting upon the modern doctrine of substituting a flexible morality as the rule of policy, instead of the divine rule as revealed in the sacred oracles.

"If the word of God," said the Bishop, "be true, and if the history of the past be not deceitful, evil will sooner or later befall that nation, which loses sight of the sovereignty of Jehovah, and substitutes other foundations for the duties of public society, than those which have been everlastingly laid by himself. Evil will befall that nation, where the maxims of a temporary and secular expediency are permitted to supersede the motives and rules which are drawn from the fountain of eternal truth; and where the ruling providence of God, and the supremacy of the gospel, if they be not in terms denied, are not recognized as influencing the counsels of princes, nor as affecting the welfare of states. It is, we would fain believe, rather to be attributed to the fastidious refinement of modern society, than to a real decay of religious principle amongst us, that, even in our own country, so remarkably favoured and protected by the Most High, his providence is less frequently referred to, and his glory less ostensibly sought, in our public acts and measures, than it was wont to be. We fear that it cannot be said of us, as a nation, that *we acknowledge God in all our ways, or give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name.*"

The Sermon being ended, the Archbishop approached the King, and, standing before him, said, "Sir, are you willing to take the oath usually taken by your predecessors?"—The King answered, "I am willing."

The Archbishop then put the following questions to the King; whose replies were made from a book which he held in his hands.

Archbishop.—"Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this kingdom of Great Britain, and the dominions thereunto belonging, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same?"

King.—"I solemnly promise so to do."

Archbishop.—"Will you, to the utmost of your power, cause law and justice in mercy to be executed in all your judgments?"

King.—"I will."

Archbishop.—"Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion established by law? And will you maintain and preserve inviolate the settlement of the church of England, and the doctrine, worship, and discipline, and government thereof, as by law established within the kingdom of England and Ireland, the dominion of Wales, the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and the territories thereunto belonging, before the union of the two kingdoms? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England, and to the churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain unto them, or any of them?"

King.—"All this I promise to do?"

His Majesty then arose, and went bareheaded to the Altar, where, kneeling and laying his hand upon the Holy Gospels, he said, "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep; so help me, God."

Hereupon the King kissed the book, and signed the oath; after which he put on his cap of crimson velvet, and returned to his chair. The hymn, "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire," was then sung by the choir.

The Anthem being ended, the Archbishop proceeded to read the prayer preparatory to the anointing. This was followed by the coronation anthem, "Zadok the priest." During the performance of this beautiful composition of Handel, the King was disrobed, and took his seat in King Edward's chair, which was covered with cloth of gold, and placed in front of the Altar, when four Knights of the Garter held over his head a rich pall, or cloth of gold, delivered to them by the Lord Chamberlain, who had received the same from an Officer of the Wardrobe; and the Dean of Westminster stood near, holding the Ampulla, containing the consecrated oil, and pouring some into the Anointing Spoon, the Archbishop anointed his Majesty on the head and hands, in the form of a Cross, pronouncing the words, "Be thou anointed," &c.

The King then kneeling, the Archbishop pronounced the benediction. The Knights of the Garter then returned the pall to the Lord Chamberlain, and repaired to their seats.

After the anointing, the Dean of Westminster took the Spurs from the Altar, and delivered them to the Deputy Great Chamberlain; who, kneeling down, touched his Majesty's heels with them, and then returned them to the Dean, who immediately laid them again upon the Altar.

Earl Grey, who bore the Sword of State, now delivered it to the Lord Chamberlain, and received another, in a scabbard of purple velvet. His Lordship, on receiving this,

delivered it to the Archbishop, who laid it on the Altar with the customary prayer.

The Archbishop then took the Sword from off the Altar, and, assisted by other Bishops, delivered it into the King's right hand, saying, "Receive this kingly Sword," &c., and, "With this Sword do justice," &c.

After this exhortation, the King rising up, went to the Altar where his Majesty offered the Sword in the scabbard, and then retired to his chair; the Sword was then redeemed by the nobleman who first received it, and who carried it during the remainder of the solemnity, having first drawn it out of the scabbard, and delivered the latter to an officer of the Wardrobe.

The King then standing, his Majesty was invested by the Dean with the Imperial Mantle, or Dalmatic Robe, of cloth of gold, delivered to him by the Officers of the Wardrobe; the Deputy Great Chamberlain fastening the clasps.

The King then sitting down, the Archbishop having received the Orb from the Dean, delivered it into the King's right hand, saying, "Receive this Imperial Robe and Orb," &c. His Majesty then returned the Orb to the Dean, who laid it upon the Altar.

The Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's household, then receiving from the officer of the Jewel-office the Ruby Ring, delivered the same to the Archbishop, who put it on the fourth finger of the King's right hand, saying, "Receive this Ring," &c.

The Dean thereupon brought from the Altar the two Sceptres with the Cross and the Dove, and delivered them to the Archbishop. In the mean time, the Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the Manor of Worksop, presented to the King a Glove, for his Majesty's right hand, embroidered with the Arms of Howard, which his Majesty put on. The Archbishop then delivered the Sceptre with the Cross into his Majesty's right hand, saying, "Receive the Royal Sceptre," &c.; and then the Sceptre with the Dove into his left hand, saying, "Receive the Rod of Equity," &c. The Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the Manor of Worksop, supported his Majesty's right arm, and held the Sceptre as occasion required.

The Archbishop, standing before the Altar, and having St. Edward's Crown before him, took the same into his hands, and said the prayer, "O God, who crownest thy faithful servants with mercy," &c. Then his Grace, assisted by the other Bishops, came from the Altar, the Dean of Westminster carrying the Crown, which the Archbishop took, and placed on his Majesty's head; while the people shouted, "God save the

King:" the trumpets sounding, the drums beating, and the Park and Tower guns firing by signal. The acclamations having ceased, the Archbishop pronounced the exhortation, "Be strong, and of good courage," &c. The Choir then sung the anthem, "The King shall rejoice, in thy strength," &c.

As soon as the King was crowned, the Princes of the Blood Royal, and the other Peers, put on their coronets, the Bishops their caps, and the Kings of Arms their crowns.

The Dean then taking the Holy Bible, delivered it to the Archbishop, who, attended by the Bishops, presented it to the King, with an address. His Majesty then returned the sacred volume to the prelate, who gave it to the Dean, and it was replaced by him on the Altar.

The King then knelt, holding both the Sceptres in his hands, while the Archbishop pronounced the Benediction, "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; and as he hath made thee King over his people, so may he still prosper thee in this world, and make thee partaker of his eternal felicity in the world to come."

The Bishops and the Peers, in an audible voice, answered, "Amen."

The Archbishop now, turning to the people, said, "And the same Lord God Almighty grant that the Clergy and People gathered together for this ordinance, may, by his gracious assistance, be continually governed by thee in all happiness: and that, humbly obeying his will, and faithfully serving thee, they may enjoy peace in the present life, and with thee be made partakers of the everlasting kingdom."

Again the Bishops and Peers responded, "Amen."

The King then arose, and went to King Edward's Chair, where he kissed the Archbishop and Bishops who were present. This done, the Choir sang the "*Te Deum*." During which, the King removed to the chair in which his Majesty sat on the east side of the throne, where he reposed in the interval.

When the *Te Deum* was ended, the King, led up by the Archbishops and Bishops, ascended the theatre, and was enthroned by Bishops and Peers; and the Archbishop, standing before him, pronounced the Exhortation, "Stand firm, and hold fast," &c.

A loud and general exclamation of "God save the King!" accompanied by clapping of hands and huzzaing, burst from every part of the Abbey upon his Majesty's ascending the throne. At this moment, also, the Coronation Medals were thrown about by the Treasurer of his Majesty's household.

The King then delivered the Sceptre with the Cross to the Duke of Norfolk, as Lord of the Manor of Worksop, to hold

the same in his right hand ; and the Sceptre with the Dove, to the Duke of Richmond, to hold the same in his left hand during the Homage.

The Archbishop then knelt before the King, the other Bishops following his example, and, for himself, and the other Lords Spiritual, pronounced the words of Homage, they kneeling around him, and saying after him. This done, the Archbishop kissed his Majesty's left cheek, and the rest of the Lords spiritual did the same, and retired. The like ceremony was then performed by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and the two other Princes of the Blood Royal there present ; by the Duke of Norfolk, and fifteen other Dukes ; by the Marquess of Winchester, and seventeen other Marquesses ; by the Earl of Shrewsbury, and sixty other Earls ; by Viscount Hereford, and nine other Viscounts ; and by Lord de Roos, and fifty-seven other Barons. During the ceremony, the Choir sang an Anthem, and the Treasurer of his Majesty's Household threw about more Medals of the Coronation. The obverse of the medal was a profile of the King, and the reverse a profile of the Queen, modelled by Chantrey, and engraved by Wyon.

It was remarked that, though the number of Peers of the three kingdoms is about five hundred and ten, only one third of them attended the present ceremony.

The Queen having reposed herself in her chair on the south side of the Altar during the Coronation of his Majesty, arose as soon as the Anthem was ended, and went to the Altar, where she knelt whilst the Archbishop said the prayer of consecration.

Her Majesty then rose, and went to the Chair, in which she was to be anointed and crowned, and which was placed near the Altar, and, standing there, Lady Brownlow took off her Majesty's circle of gold, and delivered it to her Lord Chamberlain. The Queen then knelt down, and four Duchesses, appointed for that purpose, holding a rich pall of silk, or cloth of gold, over her Majesty, the Archbishop poured the consecrated oil upon her head, saying, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, let the anointing of this oil increase thine honours, and the grace of God's Holy Spirit establish them for ever and ever. Amen." Then the Archbishop received from the Officer of the Jewel-office the Queen's Ring, and put the same on the fourth finger of her Majesty's right hand.

After this, he took the Crown from the Altar, and reverently set it on the Queen's head, saying, "Receive the crown of glory, honour, and joy," &c.

Her Majesty being crowned, the three Princesses of the Blood Royal and all the Peeresses put on their coronets ; and then the Archbishop placed the Sceptre with the Cross in her

Majesty's right hand, and the ivory rod with the Dove in her left, and offered up the prayer, "O Lord, the giver of all perfection," &c. The Queen, being thus anointed and crowned, and having received all her ornaments, the choirs sang the "Hallelujah Chorus." At the commencement of the chorus, the Queen arose, and, supported as before, ascended the theatre, (reverently bowing to his Majesty as she passed the throne,) and was conducted to her own throne on the left hand of that of the King, where her Majesty reposed until the conclusion of this part of the service.

After the Chorus, their Majesties descended from their thrones, and went to the Altar, where the King, taking off his Crown, delivered it to the Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain to hold, and the sceptres to the Dukes of Norfolk and Richmond. The Queen also taking off her crown, delivered it to her Lord Chamberlain, and the sceptres to the noblemen who had previously borne them. Their Majesties then received the Sacrament, from the Archbishop, and the Dean of Westminster. After this solemnity, they put on their crowns; and, taking their sceptres as before, repaired again to their thrones. The communion service being ended, and the benediction pronounced, the trumpets sounded, and the drums beat. The King and Queen then descended from their thrones, and passed into St. Edward's Chapel, where the King was divested of the robe of state, and put on his royal robe of purple velvet.

Their Majesties, wearing their crowns, and bearing the sceptres, then proceeded out of the choir, in the same order as before, to the platform without the entrance of the west door of the Abbey, when Garter proclaimed the regal style as follows:

"The Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, WILLIAM THE FOURTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith: King of Hanover, Duke of Brunswick and of Lunenburg."

The Swords and the Regalia were received, in the robing chambers, by the officers of the Jewel-Office appointed for that purpose. The ceremonies were concluded at about three o'clock, when their Majesties, and the Princes and Princesses of the Blood Royal, returned to St. James's Palace, in the same state as before, but by no means in the same regular manner. This was occasioned, partly by the want of sufficient space to form the carriages in line, and partly by the wetness of the day. Some of the carriages of the Royal Party drove off as soon as the personages whom they were to convey had entered them, and did not pull up until they reached Charing Cross. In this way, the procession, as it passed up Parliament Street, appeared

broken. Another difference was, that the glasses of most of the carriages were up, in consequence of the rain.

In every part of the line through which the procession passed, till its arrival at the Palace, their Majesties received the most cordial and enthusiastic proofs of the affectionate attachment of their subjects. The arrival of their Majesties at the Palace was announced by the firing of a royal salute of twenty-one guns, which closed the ceremonies of the day.

As the economy of the age did not allow his Majesty to give his Peers the usual Coronation Dinner in Westminster Hall, he privately entertained a large party at St. James's, including the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Landgravine of Hesse Homburg, the Princess Augusta, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke of Saxe Meiningen, the Duchess of Saxe Weimar, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and most of the principal Nobility. It must have been peculiarly gratifying to the Queen, to have her brother and sister present at this interesting spectacle; nor could it be less so to the illustrious personages themselves.

Throughout the metropolis, the day was kept as a general holiday. All business was suspended, and the shops were closed. The new entrance to St. James's Park, from Carlton Terrace, was on this occasion opened, for the first time.

In the evening, the metropolis was generally illuminated, and all the government offices were particularly splendid. A very grand discharge of fire-works, in Hyde Park, lasted from nine to eleven o'clock; but it was unfortunately productive of serious accidents, and even attended with loss of life.

The absence of the Duchess of Kent and her daughter the presumptive heiress to the throne, from the Coronation, occasioned much surprise, and some of the leading journals threw out very scurrilous invectives against the Duchess, for her supposed want of respect to their Majesties. A justificatory plea, however, was published, from which it appeared that the delicate state of the health of the young Princess, who was then in the Isle of Wight, rendered it indispensable that she should avoid the fatiguing ceremony.

It has already been observed, that the primary intention of the King and his ministers was, to have omitted

the formality of a coronation altogether. In further confirmation of this assertion, the following circumstance may be adduced. At the grand dinner which followed the ceremonial, his Majesty gave as a toast, "The Land we live in:" and then added, "that the day had afforded him satisfaction; but that he did not at all agree with those who had considered the ceremony as indispensable, for that the compact between the Prince and the people was as binding on his mind before, as after; that no member of the House of Hanover could forget the condition on which he held the crown," and his Majesty repeated, (striking the table with energy,) "that he was not a whit more desirous now, than before taking the oath, to watch over the liberties, and promote the welfare, of his people."

In conformity to precedents, the coronation was distinguished by the grants of new honours, in the creation of three marquesses, four earls, and fifteen barons. This increase of the peerage was sometime after succeeded by the addition of twenty-eight to the list of baronets of the united kingdom.

On the 22nd of the same month, a grand naval spectacle was exhibited at Woolwich, in the launch of the *Thunderer*, a second-rate ship, of 84 guns, on a new construction. The Queen performed the ceremony of naming the ship; after which their Majesties, and several other members of the august family, partook of an elegant entertainment on board the *Royal Sovereign*.

CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1831.

As the time approached, when the fate of the reformed bill was to be decided in the upper house of Parliament, the feelings of the public were wound up to the highest pitch of excitement. Numerous petitions were presented to the Lords from counties, cities, bodies corporate, associations, religious societies, and even private individuals, praying, and in many cases demanding, the passing of the bill. Previous to the regular discussion of the measure, occasional opportunities were taken by some of the Lords, to deliver their opinions upon the general question; and from these light skirmishes, it became obvious that the great battle would be obstinately contested.

At length, on Tuesday, the 3d of October, after the order of the day for the second reading of the bill had been read, EARL GREY commenced an elaborate and energetic speech, in the course of which he gave a brief sketch of his political history, observing—

That he had been the constant and consistent advocate of parliamentary reform for nearly half a century, and that, too, amidst circumstances of much difficulty and danger, in seasons of great political convulsion and violence. On one or two occasions, he had originated motions on the subject, believing, as he did, that a change was necessary, to infuse new vigour into the constitution, to unite the estates of the realm in the bonds of a sacred and happy union, and to make the House of Commons that which it was intended to be, and professed to be, and ought to be—the full, vigorous, and efficient representative of the people of England. Although he had reverted to these facts in his previous political career, he did not stand there to advocate the measure of reform, on the ground that he had never swerved from maintaining the necessity and expediency of its

adoption. It was not enough for him, as a public man, to urge his views on the basis of personal consistency—he was bound to entertain the conviction forced on him through all chances and changes of time, that, in proposing a measure affecting the mighty interests of the state, the course he took was called for by justice and necessity. He not only considered himself thus bound, but, farther, he deemed it his duty not to proceed in reducing right opinions into practical operation rashly, precipitously, or at a dangerous period; but to act, as he now acted, from the sincere conviction that they were essential to the safety of the country—that the measure with which they were associated could not be longer delayed—and that, when passed into a law, it would unite under the banners of government, a loyal, prosperous, and harmonious people.

In the whole cycle of his previous life, his opinions had exhibited no inconsistency; he had always been the unflinching supporter of the question, and had, under the strongest conviction, and when he did not indulge the most remote idea of filling the office he then held, expressed his opinion, that the measure under consideration could not be delayed much longer with safety to the country. What had followed more recently was well known. He had received the commands of his gracious Sovereign to form a cabinet; and on what principle was he to be guided in doing so? He could not have been so presumptuous as to hope to proceed successfully by pursuing a system which had led to the retirement of his predecessors. The principle on which they had acted was the cause of their removal. The point at issue being, whether he should incline to the system of the previous administration, or follow one more congenial to the general feelings of the community, he made a condition, on accepting office, that parliamentary reform should be introduced as a government measure. That condition having been generously assented to by his gracious Sovereign—the measure not being much objected to even in that house, and having been sanctioned by the universal and emphatic approval of the public—he lost no time, in conjunction with his colleagues, who were all one and unanimous—he lost no time, he repeated, in preparing the commencement of the bill, which, now in its more mature state, was to form the subject of that night's deliberations.

Under these circumstances, therefore, if he had stated them correctly, he hoped that it could not with reason be imputed to him as a crime, that he had embraced the earliest opportunity of carrying into effect those principles, of which he had always been the strenuous, though the feeble, advocate; and of acquitting himself of that pledge which he and his colleagues had

given upon their accession to office, by introducing a measure of parliamentary reform, which, as he had before said, would, he was convinced, if it should receive the sanction of that House, be found to be a measure of peace, of safety, and of conciliation.

He had felt, that the most prudent and the safest measure of reform would be a bold measure, because, when he looked at the condition of the country—when he considered how just the claims of the people were—and when, above all, he reflected upon the absolute necessity of satisfying the respectable and reasonable part of the community, in order that thereby the government and the legislature might be furnished with a ground, on which a firm and safe stand might be made in defence of the principles of the constitution, if ever they should be really assailed—because, he said, from all these considerations, he was satisfied that nothing but a bold measure would give such general satisfaction and content, as would set the question hereafter for ever at rest. The people had long turned with disgust, from beholding persons returned to the House of Commons, under the false and insulting title of representatives of the people, while they were, in fact, the mere nominees of peers, or wealthy persons, who pretended that they had now converted a public trust into their own private property, and that they had a right to use it or to abuse it for their own individual benefit, and without any reference to the interests of the people. They beheld the scenes which disgraced every general election—when the most gross and scandalous corruption was practised without disguise—when the sale of seats in the House of Commons was a matter of undisputed notoriety; and, on consulting the laws and constitution of the country, they had found that such proceedings were at once illegal, and inconsistent with their rights. Government themselves could not close their eyes to these facts, and therefore it had been determined to abolish all those boroughs, in which it was found impracticable to amend the representation, and to make those other provisions which were to be found in the present bill, and which his Lordship then proceeded to explain at some length to the House. The noble earl then said, that the present system made government dependent on possessors of borough property, and prevented them from bestowing those emoluments and advantages which they wished to confer on deserving and meritorious persons, but which they were obliged to grant to individuals who possessed this species of political power. By this bill, their lordships would still have that fair and proper influence which their situation always ought, and always would, command. He therefore called on them to concur in a measure which had

received the sanction of the other house, and which had been hailed with a more unanimous expression of satisfaction throughout the country, than, he believed, any measure of any description had ever before elicited.

The noble earl then enforced, by many arguments and the adduction of several apposite instances, the necessity of timely concession to the demands of the people. In conclusion, he turned to the episcopal bench, and, addressing the bishops, said, the eyes of the country were now upon them. He called upon them to "set their house in order," and prepare to meet the common storm; to consider seriously what would be the opinion of the country, should a measure, on which the nation had fixed its hope, be defeated by their votes. As they were the ministers of peace; earnestly did he hope, that the result of their votes would be such as might tend to the tranquillity, to the peace and happiness, of the country. As regarded the whole of their lordships, spiritual and temporal, he hoped that the consequences of the rejection of the bill would be seriously considered, for the consequences would be serious. As to the effect which the rejection or adoption of the measure might produce to himself, or the administration of which he formed a part, it was a matter of insignificance. He would only say, that by this measure he was prepared to stand or fall. The question of his continuance in office for one hour, would depend on the prospect of being able to carry through that which he considered so important to the tranquillity, to the safety and happiness, of the country. His lordship concluded with moving—"that the bill be read a second time."

LORD WHARNCLIFFE next rose, and observed—

That this bill would, if suffered to pass, absorb into the power of the House of Commons, the whole power and privileges of their Lordships' House, and probably of the Crown itself. The constitution could not go on with such a system as that which this bill would establish. One great objection to the measure was, that it took away the checks upon the ebullition of popular feeling, and supplied nothing in their place. The noble Baron, after dissecting the bill, and pointing out several inconsistencies, went on to repeat, that the House of Commons, formed upon this basis, would become too much the image of the people; and being so, that it would be impossible that three or four hundred titled persons should have the power of arresting any of its movements. The dangerous position in which their lordships then stood proved the truth of the assertion. They had now a popular, or rather a delegated, House of Commons, which, in consequence, had passed this measure: and now they were told that they had nothing to do but record and register

the decree. He did not object, from any personal motives, to the bill, because it got rid of the nomination boroughs. He would give no opinion at present upon those boroughs; but on the rest of the bill he would frankly avow, that he considered it as the subversion of the Monarchy, and as the destruction of the House of Lords. Their lordships were not in a situation to try the experiment of a new constitution. They had already a constitution, which had produced them incalculable advantages.

Their lordships had just been told to beware of what they were doing. They had been told that this bill must pass, or that something worse must happen. Their lordships were told every day, that their house was sinking in public estimation, and that, if it did not vote in favour of this bill, it would soon be found that the people could do better without the House of Lords, than the House of Lords could do without the people. If the people thought that they could do without the House of Lords, they probably might be mad enough to attempt it; but he would venture to tell them, that if ever the people took such a step, they would themselves be the first to repent it. If an hereditary parliament were really of no use to the country, then the sooner it was got rid of the better. It might be an anomaly in the state, but it was an anomaly which, on more occasions than one, had been found of the greatest service. The people owed their liberties to the House of Lords; and on no occasion had the peers of England ever been found hostile to those liberties. But if the people were tired of the House of Lords—if they no longer considered them a necessary part of the constitution—in God's name let them say so, and they were ready at once to walk out of the House. The country, however, expected the House of Peers to do their duty. He therefore besought their lordships, as they valued their character—as they valued the station which they held, either by the favour of their Sovereign, or by inheritance—to shew that the peers of England, when called upon to do their duty, would not be intimidated by menaces, or guided by interest.

The noble lord concluded by moving, as an amendment, that the bill be rejected. Afterwards, however, on its being stated that this mode of disposing of the bill would imply disrespect to the House of Commons, his lordship was permitted to withdraw the motion for another, that the second reading be postponed till that day six months. An adjournment of the debate then took place, till the following day, when the principal speakers were, for the bill, Viscount Melbourne, and against it, the Earl of Harrowby and the DUKE OF WELLINGTON. The latter, after saying that this measure went to overturn the whole system of representation, took occasion to advert to the declaration against

reform made by himself at the commencement of last session, and complained that he had been misrepresented. What he—as a minister of the crown, bound to support the institutions of the country, and to resist all projects of parliamentary reform—had said, was, that he approved of the constitution of parliament; but if he were to invent a constitution for parliament over again, he would not say that he would adopt the same, as it now existed, because the invention of man could not accomplish it, but he would endeavour to frame one like it, in which property should preponderate. His grace denied that the dissolution of the late government was occasioned by this declaration. The duke then said, that this bill went to violate both the principle and practice of the constitution. The town representation would be thrown into the hands of close, self-elected committees; and, by the undue enlargement of the powers of the town constituency, the balance of the agricultural representation of the counties would be destroyed. The bill would create a fierce democratic constituency, and consequently a fierce and democratic body of representatives. Were this bill carried, the churches of England and Ireland would soon cease to exist. His grace added, in conclusion, that the question of reform had now assumed such a shape, that, whatever might be the decision of their lordships on this particular bill, but a very short time would elapse before the subject must be again brought under their consideration. He therefore entreated of their lordships, that, in deciding upon this bill, they would not pledge themselves to any line of conduct on a future occasion.

The next day, the adjourned debate was resumed, when the EARL OF DUDLEY said, that the bill, framed as it was, proceeded on the monstrous proposition, that we never had had a good government; and that the people had always been deprived of their rights. Also the people had been induced to support this bill, foolishly conceiving that it would extend commerce, make trade more brisk, give more general employment to the labouring classes, and make bread cheaper. Notwithstanding the present excitement, he earnestly recommended their lordships to reject the bill.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE said, that he fully admitted changes to be great evils, especially in so complicated a state of society as our own; but it would be found, from a careful study of the statute-book, that, in those important periods of our history—the Reformation, the Revolution, the succession of the House of Hanover, the Union between Scotland and England, that between England and Ireland, and the recent disfranchisement of the Irish freeholders—the laws legalizing those events were but so many cases in which the old institutions of the country were made to bend to a great, he would even say, an

immense political expediency. The noble marquess then observed, that, taking into consideration a fact on which much stress had been laid by the noble duke (Wellington), on the discussion of the Emancipation Bill, namely, that it had received the sanction of the King's government, he had hoped for his grace's support on this occasion. In the case of reform, however, the tables were to be turned. Yet the noble duke had intimated the possibility of a change in his opinions, and had thus added his name to the list of those who thought some reform necessary. The noble marquess, after some remarks, concluded an eloquent speech, by urging on their lordships the expediency of passing the bill.

The MARQUESS of LONDONDERRY, on the other side, reprobated the bill as unjust, unconstitutional, and unprincipled. It was unjust, because it robbed numbers of their rights; it was unconstitutional, because it was subversive of the best principles of the constitution; and it was unprincipled, inasmuch that there was no part of it but what was framed to render Whig supremacy perpetual.

VISCOUNT GODERICH, as a member of the cabinet, said, that this was not a new question, having been agitated through a period of more than half a century; and though it might occasionally slumber, it could not become wholly dormant, there being something in the constitution of human nature, and the working of men's minds, which made it impossible that the subject should ever be extinguished. The practice of buying and selling seats in parliament had heightened the general feeling for reform; and though this innovation on the public liberties had met with apologists, on the plea of utility, the people of this country were not to be so blinded as to believe it consistent with public virtue.

After one or two other noble lords had expressed their sentiments, the further discussion of the question was deferred till the 6th, when the EARL of FALMOUTH condemned the bill, as having a republican tendency.—The EARL of CARNARVON spoke to the same effect.—On the other hand, the EARL of ROSEBERRY and LORD PLUNKETT, the Irish chancellor, supported the second reading of the bill with peculiar energy. The latter begged their lordships to recollect, that they were sitting in judgment upon the people of England, who had expressed their wishes for this bill, and this bill alone. But noble lords said that the bill would prove injurious to the people, and that, if they got it, they would proceed to overthrow the church, and destroy the established institutions of the country. This was an outrageous attack upon the people of England. They were too wise, moral, and intelligent, to adopt any such desperate course as that which had been marked out for them. The learned lord then affirmed,

that it was impossible for any government to be now carried on, without the concession of parliamentary reform.

On Friday the 7th, the debate terminated, when

LORD WYNFORD opened the discussion in a long and desultory speech, in the course of which he expressed himself an enemy to the buying and selling of seats, and said that a bill to do away with the practice should have his support. But that, to the one now before them, he never could give his consent; as, if carried, it would destroy the church and the landed interest, and prove injurious to the morals of the people.

The EARL of ELDON followed the noble and learned lord, in a train of legal argument, against the right of parliament to deprive boroughs and corporations of those privileges, to which they were as much entitled as the members of that house were to their peerages. The venerable earl added, that this was the most momentous question that had ever come before them; for it would introduce annual parliaments, the vote by ballot, and, in fine, it would be incompatible with the existence of that house, if not of the throne, and of every other institution of the country.

The LORD CHANCELLOR next rose, and, in a speech of four hours' duration, went over all the arguments that had been adduced against the measure, in the course of the preceding debates. Upon some of the positions brought forward by the opponents of the bill, his lordship animadverted with great severity, and in a style of sarcasm which elicited peals of merriment at the expense of the noble personages who were the objects of the irony. But, however forcible might be the effect of the learned lord's attacks, the peroration of his speech was more admired, as being in a purer strain of eloquence. "My Lords," said the Chancellor, "do not persuade yourselves, that if even the present government were to be driven from office by the defeat of this bill, therefore you would get rid of the great bugbear of reform. No, my lords, the government which would succeed us, under such circumstances, would be one to you far less auspicious than the present. You would be compelled to grant a measure of reform, compared with which, in extent, this we now proffer you would be moderation. Remember the often-quoted old story of the sibyl and her oracles, and learn from it the value of taking time by the forelock. On the first visit, the volumes, the sacred volumes, full of lessons of wisdom and peace, were offered at a certain price. You refused the bargain. She is called back; she offers you a smaller treasure, but at a higher price, and you again refuse. She comes back, and, with a still diminished treasure, demands a higher price, and you refuse once more; and thus you go on, till you are ultimately compelled to pay at an enormous rate for what might have been cheaply

bought at first. So, with respect to reform : you are now asked to pay a moderate price for restoring the old fabric of the representative system ; and if you refuse it, the longer you delay the more you will have to yield, till annual parliaments, election by the millions, and vote by ballot, must be conceded. My lords, this homely tale contains a great moral lesson. What might follow such results as I have pointed out, I will not now venture to say. This I know, that as sure as man is man, the delay of justice serves but to enhance the price at which you must purchase safety and peace. Your lordships are the highest judicial authority in the realm ; you sit here as judges in all causes, civil and criminal, which can come between subject and subject. It is the first office of judges never to decide in any, the most trifling cause, without hearing every thing that can be given in evidence concerning it. Will you do so now ? Will you decide the great cause of a nation's hopes and fears without a hearing ? Beware of your decision. Rouse not the spirit of a peace-loving, but determined, people ; alienate not the affections of a great empire from your body. As your friend, as the friend of my country, as the servant of my sovereign, I counsel you to assist with all your efforts to preserve the national peace, and perpetuate the national prosperity. For all these reasons, I pray and beseech you not to reject this bill. I call upon you, by all that you hold most dear, by all that binds every one of us to our common order and our common country ; unless, indeed, you are prepared to say that you will admit of no reform, that you are resolved against all change ; for in that case opposition would, at least, be consistent ; I beseech you, I solemnly adjure you, yea, even on bended knees, my lords," (here Lord Brougham slightly bent his knee on the woolsack,) "I implore you not to reject this bill."

LORD LYNDHURST followed the Chancellor, and complained of the manner in which the opposition, of which he formed a part, had been treated both within that house, and out of it, as the supporters of old and obsolete prejudices—and even as being influenced by sordid and personal motives. But if they did err, the noble lord said, they erred under very high authority. He would state on their behalf, that the battle which they were now fighting, the language which they now held, and the principles they were now advocating, had been fought, upheld, and advocated, by the greatest statesmen, and the most profound philosophers, that had ever taken part in any discussion. Passing, however, over the dead, he would come to the living, and, in vindication of the error committed by the present opponents of this bill, if error it was, he would appeal to the authority of some of the noble lords who were now the sup-

porters of this measure. Here Lord Lyndhurst mentioned Earl Grey as having, till the present occasion, always limited his views to a gradual reform. The learned lord appealed also to the authority of the nominal author of the bill, Lord John Russell, as having hitherto professed the same moderate sentiments on the subject. Lastly, the chief baron quoted, to the same purpose, a letter written by the Chancellor, when Mr. Brougham, in which he stated "above all things, that disfranchisement formed no part of his plan of reform."

This produced an interruption on the part of the Lord Chancellor, who said that the letter which had been referred to, was stolen from his private depository by one of his servants, who sold it to a newspaper, in consequence of which, an injunction from the Court of Chancery had been obtained, to prevent its circulation.

Lord Lyndhurst, after this explanation, proceeded to point out what would be the effects of the bill, should it be brought into operation. The first result would be, the destruction of the Protestant church of Ireland; the next, a general confiscation of ecclesiastical property in both countries; after which, the rights and privileges of their lordships would be trampled in the dust, with the liberties of their country.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, in a very moderate speech, justified the vote he intended to give against the bill, because he thought that it was mischievous in its tendency, and would be extremely dangerous to the fabric of the constitution.

THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, on the other hand, declared that he should, with all his heart, vote for the second reading of the bill, because he thought it was a measure that would add to the prosperity, and secure the tranquillity, order, and peace of the empire.

The DUKE OF GLOUCESTER said he should be glad to see a safe and constitutional measure brought in, for the correction of such defects as might, from length of time, have crept into the system. But as the present was not a measure of that nature, it should not receive his support. He did not think this was a measure of reform; it was, in fact, a totally new constitution, and would lead to the ruin of all the most valued institutions of the country.

After some observations from two or three other peers, EARL GREY, at an advanced hour in the morning, replied to the leading arguments urged against the bill, during this prolonged debate; and in conclusion, declared that—

"He would not abandon the King, as long as he could be of use to him. He was bound to the King by obligations of gratitude, greater, perhaps than any subject ever owed to a sove-

reign, for the kind manner in which ne had extended to him his confidence and support, and for the indulgence with which he had accepted his offers and best endeavours to serve him. Whilst his services, therefore, could be of use, it never should be a reproach to him, that he had abandoned his Majesty. He could only be a useful servant to the King while he was able to carry measures which were necessary to the public security—measures, with which his own character, as well as the welfare of the country, were connected. All that he could pretend to was an honest zeal, a desire to do his duty in the best way he was able, sensible of his deficiencies, but feeling that there were no personal sacrifices which he was not bound to make for his King, whose goodness could never be obliterated from his heart, whatever might happen, to the last moment of his existence. Place was not sought for by him; it was offered to him under such circumstances, that nothing but a sense of duty could have induced him to accept it. He had performed his duty to the utmost of his power, and would still continue to do so; but if parliament and the nation should withdraw their confidence from him, and he should find that he could no longer be a useful servant to his Majesty, he would resign office; and when, in retirement, he could at least look back with the consciousness of having done his best to serve both his King and country.”

The House then, at a quarter past six on Saturday morning, divided, when the numbers were—for the amendment that the bill be read a second time six months hence, one hundred and ninety-nine; and against it, one hundred and fifty-eight: thus defeating ministers by a majority of forty-one.

On Monday, LORD EBRINGTON, in the Commons, moved the following resolution.

“That while the House deeply laments the present fate of the bill which had been brought in for the reform of the representation, in favour of which, the opinion of the country had been unequivocally expressed, and which was matured by discussion the most anxious and the most careful, we feel ourselves called on to re-assert our firm adherence to the principles and leading provisions of that measure, and to express our unabated confidence in the perseverance of the ministry, who, in introducing and conducting this measure, have consulted the best interests of the country.”

This proposition occasioned a long and warm debate, in the course of which, LORD ALTHORPE, after defending the domestic and foreign policy of the ministers, said:

“That unless he entertained the hope that a measure of reform equally strong should be carried hereafter, he would

not remain in office one hour. But he would be no party to a plan that did not give a full, fair, and free representation to the people: if, as happened with regard to the Catholic question, after fighting the battle, others obtained the triumph, he should still feel happy, whether in or out of place, that he had been instrumental in furthering the progress and success of parliamentary reform."

On the division, there appeared for the motion 329, and 198 against it.

The two Houses, after this, were occupied for several nights in desultory discussions on the state of public feeling with regard to the rejection of the reform bill, and the disturbances which that event had occasioned. The only important measure that engaged parliamentary attention, besides this, was the bankruptcy bill introduced by the Lord Chancellor, which, after much opposition, was carried, and received the royal assent.

On the 20th of October, Parliament was prorogued by the King in person, who delivered the following speech:

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I AM at length enabled to put an end to a session of unexampled duration and labour, in which matters of the deepest interest have been brought under your consideration. I have felt sincere satisfaction in confirming, by my Royal assent, bills for the amendment of the game laws, and for the reduction of taxes which pressed heavily on the industry of my people; and I have observed with no less pleasure the commencement of important improvements in the law of bankruptcy, from which the most beneficial effects may be expected. I continue to receive the most gratifying proofs of the friendly disposition of foreign powers.—The conference assembled in London has at length terminated its difficult and laborious discussions, by an arrangement unanimously agreed upon by the plenipotentiaries of the five powers for the separation of the states of Holland and Belgium, on terms by which the interests of both, together with the future security of other countries, have been carefully provided for. A treaty founded on this arrangement has been presented to the Dutch and Belgian

plenipotentiaries; and I trust that its acceptance by their respective courts, which I anxiously expect, will avert the dangers by which the peace of Europe was threatened, whilst this question remained unsettled."

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"I thank you for the provision made for the future dignity and comfort of my Royal Consort, in the event of her surviving me, and for the supplies which you have granted for the service of the present year. You may be assured of my anxious care to have them administered with the strictest attention to a well-considered economy. The state of Europe has made it necessary to incur, in the various establishments of the public service, an increased expenditure, which it will be my earnest desire to reduce, whenever it can be done with safety to the interests of the country. In the mean time, I have the satisfaction of reflecting, that these demands have been provided for without any material addition to the public burdens."

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"In the interval of repose which may now be afforded you, I am sure it is unnecessary for me to recommend to you the most careful attention to the preservation of tranquillity in your respective counties. The anxiety which has been so generally manifested by my people for the accomplishment of a constitutional reform in the Commons' House of Parliament, will, I trust, be regulated by a due sense of the necessity of order and moderation in their proceedings. To the consideration of this important question, the attention of Parliament must necessarily again be called at the opening of the ensuing session; and you may be assured of my unaltered desire to promote its settlement, by such improvements in the representation as may be found necessary for securing to my people the full enjoyment of their rights, which, in combination with those of the other orders of the state, are essential to the support of our free constitution."

The Lord Chancellor then, by his Majesty's command, declared Parliament to be prorogued till Tuesday, the 22nd of November. The King, on his return, was accompanied by the same enthusiastic cheering as he had received on his passage to the House.

CHAPTER VIII.

A.D. 1831.

THE rejection of the reform bill by the Lords, produced, as might have been expected, an ebullition of popular resentment throughout the kingdom. At Derby, the mob arose, and committed dreadful outrages, which lasted three days, and were not put an end to, without the loss of life, and the destruction of much valuable property.

In the adjoining county, the rioters attacked Nottingham Castle, belonging to the Duke of Newcastle; of which noble mansion, in a few hours, nothing remained but the bare walls. Colwick Hall, the seat of Mr. Musters, was first plundered of all the furniture, and then set on fire; but the flames were soon extinguished. The depredators from thence proceeded towards Wollerton Park, belonging to Lord Middleton, with the intent of levelling that edifice also to the ground. Here, however, their progress was arrested by the military, who, after a short conflict, succeeded in making sixteen of the banditti prisoners. At Beeston, the mob from Nottingham destroyed a silk-mill, and nearly demolished many private houses. Some disturbances also occurred at Loughborough, and various other places.

At this time, addresses, couched in strong language of attachment, and amounting to more than one thousand in number, were presented to the King from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. On Wednesday, the 12th of October, the Lord Mayor and corporation of

London went up to St. James's with an address to the throne. The civic procession in its route was joined by numerous bodies from eight of the principal parishes in Middlesex, adjoining the metropolis, each with its separate address, and appropriate banners. This assemblage, by the time it reached the palace, consisted of nearly sixty thousand persons. Soon after their arrival, the parochial deputies waited on Lord Melbourne, who advised them to commit their addresses to the county members, for presentation the same day at the levee. This was done, and, in about an hour afterwards, Mr. Hume thus addressed the multitude :

“ Gentlemen, I am happy to say, that I have presented your address to his Majesty, telling him it was passed at a meeting of nearly forty thousand persons, and that it prayed he would retain his ministers—use all constitutional means to pass the reform bill—and dismiss those persons from his court and household, who were opposed to this measure : and I have the happiness to say, that his Majesty has distinctly promised that the prayer of it shall be complied with ; and he emphatically observed, that he had the highest confidence in his present ministry ; and that every means in his power should be used, to insure the success of a measure so essentially necessary to the interests, happiness, and welfare of his people ; and farther, his Majesty said, that all persons about his court and person, inimical to the measure, should be removed.”

This announcement was received by the meeting with tremendous cheering. The honourable member then earnestly exhorted the people to preserve peace and good order. By peaceable conduct alone, he said, they might hope to be successful in the accomplishment of their great object. A contrary course of proceeding was the only thing which the friends of reform had to fear. He earnestly implored them, therefore, not to give their enemies that advantage. Let them be but firm, united, and peaceable, and they must eventually succeed.

This salutary advice, however, was thrown away on the crowd, who immediately afterwards began an attack upon the house of the Marquis of Bristol, the windows of which were soon destroyed. Apsley House, belonging to the Duke of Wellington, was also assailed in the same manner, and almost every square of glass in it demolished. Some policemen, who were on the spot, endeavoured to drive off the mob, but met with such a desperate resistance, that they were compelled to secure their own safety by a retreat into his grace's mansion. A re-inforcement of constables was then sent for, but on their arrival they were also saluted with showers of stones, which rendered a stronger force necessary, and then the rabble fled in all directions.

After this, the mob re-assembled, and proceeded to the house of the Earl of Dudley, where they began to throw stones ; but here they were surprised by a strong body of the police, who, having been stationed in the stables, suddenly rushed out, and quickly cleared the field.

After the levee was over, vast numbers collected in the Park, evidently waiting for the departure of such peers as were known to be anti-reformers. Among these, the Marquis of Londonderry was a particular object. His lordship, accompanied by a friend, made his appearance on horse-back, and was proceeding towards the House of Lords ; but, before he could be aware of the company he was in, he found himself in the midst of four or five thousand enemies. At first he was not recognized by them, and was in apparent security, when, on a sudden, a voice exclaimed aloud, " There goes the Marquis of Londonderry." This was enough. In an instant the air resounded with vociferations ; and at the same time, volleys of stones flew about his per-

son like hail. His lordship, upon this, drew up his horse, and put his hand into his pocket. The mob, fancying that he meant to take out his handkerchief to wipe his face, set up a tremendous shout; but on perceiving a pistol in his hand, they fell back in some disorder. At the persuasion of his friend, the Marquis did not fire, but clapped spurs to his horse, and proceeded to the Horse Guards. The mob, emboldened by this passive conduct, followed, and again pelted his lordship with stones; by some of which, he suffered severely.

The Duke of Cumberland, in riding along the Park, was also attacked by the same mob; who dragged him from his horse, and would, in all likelihood, have proceeded to the utmost violence upon the person of his Royal Highness, had he not been rescued by the police, who forced their way to his assistance, and succeeded in conveying him to the Horse Guards.

These outrages naturally became, the same evening, the subject of animadversion in the lower house of parliament; and great was the surprise on both sides, at Mr. Hume's describing the treatment which the Marquis of Londonderry had met with, as a mere accident; and also at his saying, that the people assembled on that day were as good in every respect as any gentleman in that house.

Even Mr. Hunt could not avoid expressing his indignation against the member for Middlesex. "Lord Londonderry," said the member for Preston, "has been violently assaulted with stones, and nearly pulled off his horse. Now, if this is to be held up as an accident, it will encourage the mob to do the same over again."

Colonel Trench then rose, and said,

“ He had witnessed a procession that day in Piccadilly, in which he had seen the coach of the member for Middlesex. It was preceded by a standard-bearer, with a white flag, on which were inscribed the words, “ The King, Commons, and People.” He followed the procession along Piccadilly, and wished to go to the Duke of Wellington’s, but he was not then able to effect that purpose. When he got near the house of the Duke of Wellington, he saw a number of respectable persons, and very well dressed, walking four and four, with ribands tied round their arms; he saw those people leave the main body, while those who followed them rushed into the gate. Those well-dressed persons made room for the individuals whom they headed, and who immediately began breaking the windows. The mere breaking of a pane or two of glass, under ordinary circumstances, was of no importance; but this appeared to him to be a regular and organized outrage. He confessed that it gave him very great pain to find that any set of men could offer insult to an individual, whose warlike achievements had immortalized the British name, and who he believed to be the most upright and honest man that ever ornamented private society, or dignified public station. One individual there was whom he could identify as giving orders. This individual was a remarkably well-dressed man. He looked after the standard-bearer, but him he could not find. The well-dressed people of whom he had already spoken, as being present on the occasion, if not inciting to outrage, did not, at any rate, attempt to prevent it. It was a question on a former occasion whether these processions were legal or not, but he feared that the permission given in so many instances to such processions would take away all doubts on the subject from the minds of the people. An honourable member had said, that in coming down to the house, no apprehensions appeared to be entertained by the shopkeepers and others, as he went along. But as he (Colonel Trench) proceeded to the house, he was led to form a very different conclusion, for he saw a number of persons busily employed in barricading their windows, and the precaution appeared to him to be very necessary.”

A remarkable, but melancholy instance of the inflamed state of the public mind at this period, was displayed at Perth. When the mail arrived there with the news of what had occurred in the metropolis, the guard ignorantly told the assembled multitude that the Duke of

Wellington, and another illustrious individual, had been shot ; the people set up a shout, and some of them even applied to the civil authority, to know whether they might not be allowed to celebrate the fate of the duke and his friend, by a general illumination. This disgraceful fact was actually related in the house of peers by Lord Lynedoch, on presenting a petition in favour of reform, from that very town and its vicinity.

But of all the exalted characters, who on this occasion became the objects of public hatred, none, as a body, suffered more obloquy than the bishops, to whom the loss of the bill was principally attributed ; twenty-one members of the episcopal order having voted against that measure and the popular will. At Croydon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, while presiding over a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, was grossly insulted, and the business interrupted, by the populace, who followed the primate to his carriage with exclamations of the most rancorous description. In Somersetshire, the bishop of the diocese was rudely attacked by an infuriated mob, while engaged in the solemn ceremony of consecrating a new church. Many other prelates were burnt in effigy ; some of which scenic representations were exhibited before the respective cathedrals of the unpopular dignitaries. But these were harmless trifles compared with what occurred at Bristol.

Sir Charles Wetherell, the recorder of that city, having announced his intention to arrive there on Saturday, the 29th of October, to discharge his judicial duty for the trial of the prisoners ; great fears were entertained lest his appearance, in consequence of the active part taken by him against the reform bill, should occasion

a disturbance. The magistrates upon this held a consultation, and the recorder was desired to postpone his visit till the ferment should have subsided. This, however, could not be done without the sanction of government, and an application was therefore made to the ministers for that purpose. The answer being, that the gaol-delivery must take place as usual, Sir Charles set out for Bath, from whence he pursued his journey with an escort of constables. Midway between the two cities, the procession was encountered by a vast concourse of people, who assailed the recorder with groans, hisses, execrations, and stones. This was continued all the way to the Guildhall, into which the judge was conducted amidst the yells and vociferations of the multitude. After opening his commission, the recorder and the other magistrates left the Guildhall for the Mansion-house, in Queen-square, which being at a considerable distance, exposed the gentlemen to much insult and violence from the gathering crowds. Several scuffles ensued between the mob and the special constables, in which the latter at first had some advantage with their staves; but the people making a general rush to the quay, and, arming themselves with bludgeons, the contests were renewed, the multitude increased, the civil force was overcome, and some of the officers were wounded. At five o'clock the riot act was read, immediately after which every window in the mansion-house was smashed to pieces. The 14th Dragoons were then sent for, but, before their arrival, the magistrates were in great personal danger, the rioters having torn up the iron railing and forced an entrance into the lower rooms of the Mansion-house, the contents of which were destroyed.

At the approach of the soldiers, the mob hastily withdrew, but did not disperse ; and, unfortunately, Colonel Brereton, instead of acting promptly as the occasion required, not only suffered the crowd to continue in masses about the square, but even took off his hat to them, for which he was greeted with cheers. In his conference with the magistrates, he said, the people were very good-humoured ; that he had been shaking hands with them till he was tired ; that their number was lessening ; and that he would soon make them retire, by merely riding about the troops. This was a wretched delusion, for at eight o'clock the crowd was increasing to a frightful degree, both in force and fury, insomuch that Sir Charles Wetherell found it necessary to make his escape in the disguise of a servant, and, taking a circuitous route, he made the best of his way to London.

On arriving at Newport in Gloucestershire, he accosted the host of the Red Lion, with "Terrible riots at Bristol, Mr. Landlord." "Yes," was the reply ; "and it is all the fault of that stubborn man, Sir Charles Wetherell : I wish they had pushed him into the float." Sir Charles then made himself known, to the great astonishment and confusion of Mr. Giles. An explanation took place ; and both the landlord and Sir Charles spent the night together, for neither went to bed. The next morning, at eleven o'clock, the recorder left for London, by way of Dursley, Tetbury, and Cirencester. He was anxious to pass through those towns, but particularly Dursley, at the time when the people were in church.

Amidst all this confusion, and while the rioters were committing every kind of outrage in the Mansion-house, Colonel Brereton remained passive, though repeatedly called upon to clear the streets. After some hours had

elapsed, the dragoons began to use their sabres with a little effect, and the mob retreated to the quay, from whence many of them got aboard the vessels, where the soldiers, who were much annoyed by missiles of various kinds, could not venture. One of the officers, irritated at this treatment, rode off to his commander, for permission to fire; but this was peremptorily refused—and the colonel said, the mob would soon become quiet and go home, if they were not molested.

On Sunday morning, as soon as it was light, hundreds were assembled in the square, evidently ready to begin fresh operations; but the presence of the military seemed to overawe them, and for some time no outrage was attempted. It was, however, manifest, from the numerous additions making every minute to the collected force, that the pause was only prelusive of still more fearful scenes; and, in consequence, Colonel Brereton was again entreated to employ the means he had, to prevent the threatened mischief. Instead of complying with the request, he ordered the soldiers to their quarters, which lay at a considerable distance from the square where the populace were arrayed, armed with bludgeons, sledge-hammers, and other instruments of destruction.

The movement of the military was the signal for action on the part of the mob; who, the moment the cavalry disappeared, recommenced their outrages. A second attack was made upon the Mansion-house, from whence the mayor and sheriff escaped over the roofs of the adjoining dwellings; and the residence of the chief magistrate, being thus left to the mob, was quickly dismantled of all the furniture, which was either plundered, or destroyed in the most wanton manner. The cellars

were broken open, and vast quantities of wine and spirits carried away. People of all ages, and both sexes, might be seen greedily swallowing intoxicating liquors, in every direction, while the ground was covered by wretches in the most beastly state of drunkenness. The troops, that had been dismissed, again made their appearance; but were attacked with showers of stones, and brickbats, by which they suffered much, and some of the men were severely wounded. The Riot Act was now read three times, but without effect; and Colonel Brereton, on being called upon to give orders for the soldiers to fire, still refused, saying it would only infuriate the mob to commit greater violence, which might endanger the total destruction of the city; and that, therefore, it would be best to keep the people in temper till the next morning, when a reinforcement might be expected.

This strange decision, so contrary to common sense and military judgment, occasioned all the horrors that ensued. The troops were again ordered to their quarters, whither they were followed by a crowd, who, in the highest state of rage, annoyed them all the way, pelting them with stones, or whatever of an offensive nature they could procure. The mob being thus once more masters of the field, proceeded to the Bridewell, which, after liberating the prisoners, they burnt, together with the governor's private house.

At the same time, a stronger party of depredators went to the city prison, or Newgate, a strong modern building, having been erected about ten years before, at a cost of nearly £100,000. The scene that here presented itself cannot be described. Along the New Cut, in front of the gaol, a dense mass had assembled; and on the opposite bank of the river, as far as the eye could range, the people

were posted in thousands. The mob had already succeeded in forcing an entrance into the governor's house, from which they threw every moveable article into the stream, and, as the tide was ebbing, all was carried away. The prisoners were now released; and the next step taken, was to set the prison on fire. A black flag was hoisted over the gateway, as a signal; and, immediately after, clouds of smoke were seen to issue from every part of the structure. In about an hour, the governor's house, over which was the chapel, was completely enveloped in flames, and the reflection in the heavens was grand and terrific.

During these proceedings, and while the rioters were in the course of deliberation, a party of the 3rd dragoon guards, about twenty in number, arrived; but the mob, instead of being intimidated, cheered the troops, who returned the compliment by taking off their caps, then turned round and departed.

This work of destruction being completed, the rioters proceeded to the Toll-houses, which were speedily consumed. Their next object was the Gloucester County Prison, outside Lawford's Gate, which in a short time was broken into, the prisoners released, and the building in flames. Thus three prisons were on fire at the same time, without even the appearance of a check to the licentiousness of the populace. On the contrary, amidst these appalling scenes of devastation, Colonel Brereton applied to the magistrates for their authority to remove the soldiery out of the town, under the plea that their lives would be endangered by their stay. The answer he received was the only one that could be given in the situation of things, that he must act upon his own responsibility. He did so, and the troops were

marched by a circuitous route to Keynsham, midway between Bristol and Bath.

After the destruction of the prisons, a part of the banditti proceeded to the Episcopal palace, on the other side of the river. The small number of dragoons that had been left to guard the Mayor's residence, was now suddenly called away to secure that of the Bishop. They had, however, no sooner quitted the square for that purpose, than the mob, who had all day meditated the total destruction of the Mansion-house, commenced operations, and in a few minutes the building was on fire from the kitchen to the attics.

On the arrival of the troop at the Bishop's palace, they found things there tolerably quiet; but the flames which at that moment arose from the square, too plainly indicated that they had gone to the protection of one place, at the expense of the destruction of the other. Back, however, they went; and by the time they reached the square, the reflection on the opposite side of the river made it evident that, in endeavouring to protect both places, each was sacrificed. On their arrival at the square, the Mansion-house was in a blaze; yet many of the incendiaries appeared in different parts of the building, and some of them were buried in its ruins. By this time, the fire raged throughout the palace, which in a short period was reduced to ashes; but, fortunately, the Cathedral, adjoining, escaped.

The Custom-house next became a prey to the devouring flames, and the activity of the wretches in accomplishing its destruction, proved fatal to numbers who were ranging the different offices: many having cut off their own retreat by their wicked industry, were seen to approach the windows, and drop into the flames. The

Excise Office followed the fate of the Custom-house ; besides which, there were burning at the same time forty-two private dwellings and warehouses, many of which last were filled with wines, brandy, and rum, the ignition of which gave a tremendous effect to the horrid spectacle.

Morning dawned on such a scene as had never before been witnessed at Bristol, and which could not have been exceeded by what was exhibited during the memorable riots of London in the year 1780. The flames, indeed, were subsiding, but the appearance of Queen Square was appalling in the extreme. Numerous buildings were reduced to a heap of smoking ruins, and others were every moment falling, while, all around, lay scattered many of the rioters in a senseless state of intoxication. The soldiers, who had been sent out of the city, were now remanded ; the magistrates called out the *posse comitatus*, and, in the course of the day, parties of military, horse, foot, and artillery came in from different places ; so that by these means tranquillity was soon partially restored. The total number of killed and wounded fell little short of one hundred ; but as many of the latter, after suffering by the sabres and muskets of the military, were able to get away undiscovered to their homes, no accurate return could be obtained. About two hundred were made prisoners during the outrages, and several were taken afterwards with plundered property in their possession. Near two months, however, elapsed before a special commission was appointed, to bring the offenders to justice. On the 2d of January, the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Chief Justice Tindal, Sir W. E. Taunton, and Sir J. B. Bosanquet, opened the commission, which lasted till the seventh ; when eighty-one criminals were con-

victed, five of whom were left for execution, but four only suffered the extremity of the law. Meanwhile a court of military inquiry was instituted on the conduct of the officers commanding at Bristol during these melancholy transactions. The result of this investigation, which was strictly private, was the appointment of a court martial on Colonel Brereton; but, after sitting four days, the proceedings were stopped by the death of the prisoner, who, overpowered by his feelings, and the weight of evidence adduced, shot himself through the heart, on his return home. Another court-martial followed upon Captain Warrington, senior officer in command of the third dragoon guards, for neglect in employing his force to suppress the riots, and to save the public buildings at Bristol. The defence of Captain Warrington principally rested on the want of directions from Colonel Brereton, and of assistance from the magistrates. General D'Albiac, the crown prosecutor, in his reply, laid down, on the authority of Lord Chief Justice Tindal, this doctrine as a fundamental principle of the common law:—

“ If the occasion demands immediate action, and no opportunity is given for procuring the advice or sanction of the magistrate, it is the duty of every subject to act for himself, and upon his own responsibility, in suppressing a riotous and tumultuous assembly; and he may be assured, that whatever is honestly done by him, in the execution of that object, will be supported and justified by the common law. The law acknowledges no distinction in this respect, between the soldier and the private individual. The soldier is still a citizen, lying under the same obligation, and invested with the same authority to preserve the peace of the king, as any other subject. If the one is bound to attend the civil magistrate, so also is the other; if the one may interfere for that purpose, when the occasion demands it, without the requisition of the magistrate, so may the other too; if the one may employ arms for that purpose, when arms are necessary, the soldier may do the same. Undoubtedly, the same exercise of discretion which requires the private subject to act in subordina-

tion to, and in aid of, the magistrate, rather than upon his own authority, before recourse is had to arms, ought to operate in a still stronger degree with a military force. But when the danger is pressing and immediate, when a felony has been actually committed, or cannot otherwise be prevented, and, from the circumstances of the case, no opportunity is offered of obtaining a requisition from the proper authorities, the military subjects of the king, like his civil subjects, not only may, but are bound to do their utmost, of their own authority, to prevent the perpetration of outrage, to put down riot and tumult, and to preserve the lives and property of the people."

This doctrine, however, though sufficiently clear in itself, and supported by legal authority, was vehemently assailed in the public prints, as unconstitutional, and dangerous to the liberty of the subject. According to these sagacious expounders of the law, and liberal apologists for licentiousness, the soldier, if he has not the presence of a peace-officer to direct him, must fold his hands, and look on with indifference, while a band of ruffians are committing the greatest acts of violence upon the persons and property of the defenceless part of the community. Were such a passive principle as this admitted to rule and operate in turbulent times, no society could stand against combined depredators and incendiaries. Yet some of the journalists went so far as to say, that, rather than a military party should dare to interpose of their own accord, to preserve the peace, it would be better to run the risk of any consequences, however destructive the same might prove to general or to particular interests.

It came out in the course of these trials, that the conduct of the Bristol magistracy was in every stage of the disorders highly reprehensible. The mayor of the city purposely concealed himself, when his presence was most needed; and all the aldermen pleaded, in excuse for their not accompanying the soldiers, their inability to ride on horseback. Thus, between the timidity of the civil, and the

backwardness of the military authorities, this great commercial city was for near three days under the uncontrolled domination of a lawless band of plunderers and incendiaries. But while censure is justly due to the parties whose duty it was to have acted with promptness and vigour at the outset of the riots, the Government cannot be altogether exonerated from blame in the first instance, for not having detached a stronger military force to Bristol, knowing, as ministers did, the dangerous ferment which prevailed in that city, and the elements of which the mass of its populace consisted.

About the time when these dreadful scenes were passing at Bristol, some partial disturbances broke out at Bath, Coventry, and Worcester; but these being vigorously opposed by the municipal and military forces, were speedily put down, without bloodshed, or any material destruction of property.

Besides the special commission for the trial of the Bristol rioters, another was appointed for that of the Nottingham offenders; when sentence of death was pronounced upon five, and on four others judgment of death was recorded. Of those condemned, however, three only suffered, all the rest being doomed to transportation for life. It is melancholy to relate, that Mrs. Musters, who had been obliged to fly, with her child, from the infuriated rabble, and to take shelter for the night in a stable, died, not long afterwards, of the effects of the fright and the cold.

In consequence of these disgraceful transactions, his Majesty in council caused the following proclamation to be published :

“ WILLIAM R.—Whereas in divers parts of Great Britain, and more particularly in the towns of Derby and Nottingham,

and in the city of Bristol, tumultuous assemblages of people have taken place, and outrages of the most violent description have been committed both upon the persons and property of divers of our subjects: And whereas all the restraints of law and order have been overborne and trodden under foot, by such lawless multitudes; the mansions of individuals violently entered, pillaged, and set on fire; the ordinary course of justice forcibly interrupted; the gaols for the confinement of criminals broken into and destroyed; and malefactors, and persons charged with offences, let loose upon the public, to the great disturbance and danger of the common weal, and the subversion of established government: And whereas the welfare and happiness of all nations do, under Divine Providence, chiefly depend upon the observance and enforcement of the law: And whereas it is our firm determination faithfully to discharge the duty imposed on us, to preserve the public peace, and vigorously to exert the powers which we possess, for the protection of all our subjects, in the entire enjoyments of their rights and liberties. We, therefore, being resolved to suppress the wicked and flagitious practices aforesaid, have thought fit, by and with the advice of our privy council, to issue this, our royal proclamation, solemnly warning all our liege subjects, to guard against every attempt to violate the law, and to abstain from every act inconsistent with the peace and good order of society. And we do hereby charge and command all sheriffs, justices of the peace, chief magistrates of cities, boroughs, and corporations, and all the magistrates throughout Great Britain, that they do effectually repress all tumults, riots, outrages, and breaches of the peace, within their respective jurisdictions; and that they do make diligent inquiry in order to discover and bring to justice the movers and perpetrators of all such seditious and wicked acts, as aforesaid. And we do further earnestly and solemnly exhort, enjoin, call upon, and command our liege subjects, of all ranks and conditions, that they do come forward on the first appearance or apprehension of any such disturbances as aforesaid, as they are bound by their duty to us, by their regard for the general interest, and by the obligation of the law; and that they be actively aiding and assisting to all sheriffs, justices of the peace, and other magistrates, in enforcing the law against evil-doers, and in protecting their fellow-subjects in the enjoyment of their property, and the exercise of their rights, against all forcible, illegal, and unconstitutional interference, control, or aggression.

“Given at our court, at St. James’s, this second day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, and in the second year of our reign.”

The alarms of the executive government continued to increase daily, as the winter advanced, and serious apprehensions were now formed, that the peace of the capital would be endangered, by the formidable associations now establishing, of similar import to the national guard of Paris. On the 10th of November, one of these assembled at the Crown and Anchor, and assumed the title of the Grand Central National Political Union. The first resolution appointed a council of seventy-two, one half of the working classes, and the other half of the upper and middle orders of the community, for the purpose of "supporting the reform bill, as part payment of the people's rights."

Meanwhile, the walls in and about the metropolis were placarded with bills, announcing a general meeting of the various branch unions of the working classes, to be held in the fields opposite White Conduit House, Islington, on Monday, the 7th of November, to petition for annual parliaments, universal suffrage, and vote by ballot. The persons summoned were advised to arm themselves with clubs, in order to keep the police civil! Government, upon this, sent circulars to the different parishes, inviting the respectable inhabitants to come forward, as special constables, to suppress any attempts that might be made to violate the public peace. Upon this, the leaders of the union had an interview with the home secretary, when the latter designated the declaration that had been circulated by them, seditious, and the intended meeting treasonable: in consequence of which the assembly was postponed.

The most formidable of these political unions were those of Birmingham and Manchester. The former, which was said to enrol one hundred and fifty thousand members, went so far as to form an organized system of government;

in the appointment of tithingmen of tens, constables of one hundred, marshalsmen of one thousand, and aldermen of districts. This scheme, however, was of so dangerous a tendency, that the council of the association found it necessary to give it up. The Manchester union, in defiance of the laws, proceeded at length to convene meetings in the open air, on Sundays, during divine service. At one of these conventions, the most inflammatory harangues were uttered; and an address to the King was passed, demanding the release of all the prisoners that were under sentence of death at Bristol and Nottingham. The rapid increase of these primary unions, and the extreme boldness of their proceedings, in presuming to meddle with the legislative authorities, made it necessary that some steps should be taken, to lay them under restraint. Accordingly, the Gazette of the 22d of November contained the following proclamation :

“ WILLIAM REX.—Whereas certain of our subjects in different parts of our kingdom, have recently promulgated plans for voluntary associations, under the denomination of Political Associations, to be composed of separate bodies, with various divisions and subdivisions, under leaders, with a gradation of ranks and authority, and distinguished by certain badges, and subject to the general control and direction of a superior committee or council; for which associations no warrant has been given by us, or by any appointed by us, on that behalf: And whereas, according to the plans so promulgated as aforesaid, a power appears to be assumed, of acting independently of the civil magistrates, to whose requisition, calling upon them to be enrolled as constables, the individuals composing such associations are bound, in common with the rest of our subjects, to yield obedience: And whereas such associations, so constituted and appointed, under such separate direction and command, are obviously incompatible with the faithful performance of this duty, at variance with the acknowledged principles of the constitution, and subversive of the authority with which we are invested, as the supreme head of the state, for the protection of the public peace: And whereas we are determined to maintain, against all

encroachments on our royal power, those just prerogatives of the crown which have been given to us for the preservation of the peace and order of society, and for the general advantage and security of our loyal subjects. We have therefore thought it our bounden duty, with and by the advice of our privy council, to issue this our royal proclamation, declaring all such associations, so constituted and appointed as aforesaid, to be unconstitutional and illegal, and earnestly warning and enjoining all our subjects to abstain from entering into such unauthorized combinations, whereby they may draw upon themselves the penalties attending a violation of the laws, and the peace and security of our dominions may be endangered.

“Given at our court, at St. James’s, this twenty-first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, and in the second year of our reign.”

After a short separation of five weeks only, parliament was suddenly recalled on the 6th of December; not, as was generally expected, for the purpose of taking into immediate consideration the circumstances of the country, but to receive and expedite the resuscitated reform bill. On that day his Majesty went in state to the House of Peers, and, being seated on the throne, delivered the following speech :

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“I have called you together, that you may resume, without further delay, the important duties to which the circumstances of the times require your immediate attention; and I sincerely regret the inconvenience, which I am well aware you must experience from so early a renewal of your labours, after the short interval of repose allowed you from the fatigues of the last session.

“I feel it to be my duty, in the first place, to recommend to your most careful consideration, the measures which will be proposed to you for a reform in the Commons House of Parliament. A speedy and satisfactory settlement of this question becomes daily of more pressing importance to the security of the state, and to the contentment and welfare of my people.

“I deeply lament the distress which still prevails in many parts of my dominions, and for which the preservation of peace, both at home and abroad, will, under the blessing of Divine Providence, afford the best and most effectual remedy. I feel assured

of your disposition to adopt any practicable measures, which you will always find me ready and anxious to assist, both for removing the causes and mitigating the effects of the want of employment, which the embarrassments of commerce, and the consequent interruption of the pursuits of industry, have occasioned.

“It is with great regret that I have observed the existence of a disease at Sunderland, similar in its appearance and character to that which has existed in many parts of Europe. Whether it is indigenous, or has been imported from abroad, is a question involved in much uncertainty; but its progress has neither been so extensive nor so fatal as on the continent. It is not, however, the less necessary to use every precaution against the further extension of this malady; and the measures recommended by those who have had the best opportunity of observing it, as most effective for this purpose, have been adopted.

“In some parts of Ireland, a systematic opposition has been made to the payment of tithes, attended in some instances with afflicting results; and it will be one of your first duties to inquire, whether it may not be possible to effect improvements in the laws respecting this subject, which may afford the necessary protection to the established church, and at the same time remove the present causes of complaint. But in this and every other question affecting Ireland, it is above all things necessary to look to the best means of securing internal peace and order, which alone seem wanting to raise a country blessed by Providence with so many natural advantages, to a state of the greatest prosperity.

“The conduct of the Portuguese government, and the repeated injuries to which my subjects have been exposed, have prevented a renewal of my diplomatic relations with that kingdom. The state of a country so long united with this, by the ties of the most intimate alliance, must necessarily be to me an object of the deepest interest; and the return to Europe of the elder branch of the illustrious House of Braganza, and the dangers of a disputed succession, will require my most vigilant attention to events, by which not only the safety of Portugal, but the general interests of Europe, may be affected.

“The arrangement which I announced to you at the close of the last session, for the separation of the States of Holland and Belgium, has been followed by a treaty between the five powers and the king of the Belgians, which I have directed to be laid before you as soon as the ratifications shall have been exchanged. A similar treaty has not yet been agreed to by the king of the Netherlands; but I trust the period is not distant, when the sovereign will see the necessity of acceding to an arrangement, in which the plenipotentiaries of the five powers have unanimously concurred, and which has been framed with the most careful and

impartial attention to all the interests concerned. I have the satisfaction to inform you, that I have concluded with the king of the French a convention, which I have directed to be laid before you, the object of which is, the effectual suppression of the African slave trade : this convention, having for its basis the concession of reciprocal rights, to be mutually exercised in specified latitudes and places, will, I trust, enable the naval forces of the two countries to accomplish, by their combined efforts, an object which is felt by both to be so important to the interests of humanity.

“Regarding the state of Europe generally, the friendly assurances which I receive from foreign powers, and the union which subsists between me and my allies, inspire me with a confident hope that peace will not be interrupted.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“I have directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be prepared, and they will in due time be laid before you. I will take care that they shall be framed with the strictest regard to economy ; and I trust to your wisdom and patriotism to make such provisions as may be required for the public service.

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“The scenes of violence and outrage which have occurred in the city of Bristol, and in some other places, have caused me the deepest affliction. The authority of the laws must be vindicated by the punishment of offences which have caused so extensive a destruction of property, and so melancholy a loss of life. I think it right to direct your attention to the best means of improving the municipal police of the kingdom, in the more effectual protection of the public peace against the recurrence of similar commotions.

“Sincerely attached to our free constitution, I never can sanction any interference with the legitimate exercise of those rights which secure to my people the privilege of discussing and making known their grievances ; but, in respecting these rights, it is also my duty to prevent combinations, under whatever pretext, which, in their form and character are incompatible with all regular government, and are equally opposed to the spirit and to the provisions of the law ; and I know that I shall not appeal in vain to my faithful subjects, to second my determined resolution to repress all illegal proceedings by which the peace and security of my dominions may be endangered.”

On the 12th of the same month, no other business having intervened, Lord John Russell entered into an

elucidation of the revived bill; for leave to bring in which, he now applied. It would be superfluous here to follow the noble mover in the details of the plan, which differed little from the leading features of the discarded one, and in no respect from its principles. The former bill embraced three capital points—the disfranchisement of decayed or nomination boroughs; the enfranchisement of large towns or populous districts; and the extension of suffrage in towns, cities, and counties.

The important parts of all these provisions were preserved in the new bill. There were, however, some slight variations. In the rejected bill, all the parliamentary boroughs which had not a population of two thousand, were to have been disfranchised; and those which had more than two thousand, but below four thousand, were to have only one member. Yet population, his lordship said, was not by this means made the basis of representation; but it was conceived that places so unimportant as to have fewer than two thousand or four thousand inhabitants, were not entitled to have the right of sending two members to parliament, while large towns, of one hundred thousand, were not represented at all. Nearly one hundred boroughs would be either wholly or partially disfranchised, and a full representation provided for large towns, districts, and counties. By the new bill, the process of disfranchisement differed from what had before been proposed. It was now intended that the numbers of houses, and the amount of assessed taxes, should be taken, of one hundred of the least considerable boroughs. Fifty-six of these were to be totally disfranchised, and to the remaining forty-four only one member each would have been given, had the government resolved, conformable to the resolution of the preceding session, to retain the full

number of members of which the house was now composed. By the last bill, twenty-three seats remained, after extending the county representation, giving members to large towns, and increasing the members from Scotland and Ireland. In disposing of these twenty-three vacancies, it was proposed to give an additional member to certain places which by the former bill were to have had only one each. The reason assigned for preferring the number of houses, and the amount of assessment, to the returns of population, in determining the extent of disfranchisement, was stated to be, that this mode would be less liable to mistake or exaggeration.

With regard to the qualification, some changes were introduced into the new bill. During the former discussions, many difficulties were started respecting the question of a ten-pound rent, whether the house should be valued, or taken according to the rate in the parish books. By the new bill, these difficulties were thus provided against: A return to be made of all the houses of that annual value, and the occupant, or owner, to have a vote, if rated to the poor, let the amount be what it might. If not rated at all, he might acquire the right of voting, by demanding to be put on the parish books, for his contribution to the poor. Beside these changes from the former plan, there was an important one in regard to the constituency of boroughs. . According to the rejected bill, the privilege of freemen to vote in boroughs was not suffered to descend to their children. By the new measure, the rights of the sons of freemen were preserved, as of old. Another change determined, that freeholders in cities or boroughs that are counties in themselves, shall retain their elective franchise, either for the city, borough, or county.

An objection having been raised against the former bill,

on account of its taking for the estimation of population, the census of 1821; the new scheme was framed on the return of the present year.

On the 16th, the motion for the second reading of the bill was opposed by LORD PORCHESTER, who said, that the extension of the franchise to so many commercial towns, and the increased representation given to London and the neighbouring parishes, were as objectionable in the present as in the last bill. From the preponderance given to the town representation over that of the counties, the landed interest would suffer severely; and consequently the bill, though improved in some of the details, would ultimately prove more democratical than its predecessor. In fact, his lordship said, the whole tendency of the measure proposed by ministers, went to diminish the influence of the landed interest, and to increase the power of the populace. When serious objections were raised to that part of the late bill which gave one member to so many towns, it could not have been thought that their arguments would be met by now giving two members to the very same places. Such, however, was the case; and it afforded an additional proof of the intention to extend the democratic influence throughout the country. The noble lord then went on to contend, that while ministers were thus increasing the democratic power on the one hand, they were, on the other, destroying those protecting influences by which the national institutions had hitherto been strengthened and supported. Thus, for instance, ministers were unnecessarily and wantonly creating a large popular constituency in the metropolis, where it was least required, and where, most of all, its existence was sure to be mischievous. Instead of endeavouring to strengthen a power already too strong, the true policy of government would be, to add to that which was confessedly weak. There was, his lordship said, a party in this country, which, for years, had been the promoters of every thing that bore the stamp of innovation. While this party was gaining strength, that of the agriculturists was becoming weaker; and yet it was to that predominant party, the other was now about to be delivered up altogether. In conclusion, the noble lord observed, that he was friendly to a measure of practical reform, founded on reciprocal concession; but this was a measure so different from what, in his opinion, ought to be adopted, that he felt bound to move, as an amendment, that the bill be read this day six months.

SIR EDWARD SUGDEN seconded the motion. On that part of the bill regulating the right of voting in boroughs and cities, he observed, that there must be an annual valuation of every

house in England, which would furnish an excellent trade to surveyors. There was nothing more changeable in value than this species of property; for a house that was worth £10 one year might not be worth near so much the next; and it would, therefore, be absolutely necessary under this bill, that a valuation of every £10 house should take place every year, thereby producing endless litigation and disputes. This part of the bill, besides, would do that which ought always to be guarded against—that of holding out temptations to perjury. Besides this, the clause did not, the learned member said, state at what time a man should be put upon the rates, in order to entitle him to a vote; neither did it say whether he should be on the rates before the registry or not. The consequence of this uncertainty would be, that two persons might be rated for the same premises, and great difficulty be afterwards experienced in assessing them. Sir Edward concluded his analysis, by detecting another change for the worse in the present bill. In the former it was provided, that the right of voting which a man possessed, should be derived from the same premises; whereas, under the present, several premises in succession would confer the right. By this means, a mass of electors would be called into existence, whose right, or at least that of the majority of them, would be exceedingly doubtful. If this clause should pass, it would form a most dangerous innovation: the greatest fraud would also be easily perpetrated under it; and landlords, by raising their wages and rents, to persons who took houses from them, would be able to create a quantity of fictitious votes. The true title of the present plan, therefore, was, “A bill to encourage the growth of ten-pound houses in England.”

Mr. MACAULAY entered into an elaborate defence of the new bill, but, without noticing the particular objections that had been urged against its details. He concluded with boldly declaring, “By fair means or by foul, either through parliament or over parliament, the question of reform must be carried. Therefore throw open the gates to an enemy, that may force an entrance through the breach; shew that the constitution, though not exempted from those defects which time must produce in every human work, possesses within itself the power of self-reparation; and let that end, which was sought too often by a savage revolution, be gained by a peaceful and tranquil reform.”

Mr. CROKER, in a desultory speech, animadverted with great severity on the conduct of ministers, to whom he attributed the disorders that had recently occurred in different parts of the country, and the dangers that still menaced the peace of the kingdom. The state of the realm was, he said, unparalleled. Britain never before exhibited an instance in which the government

was on the side of agitation. The true secret was, that the King's name had been abused, by being employed directly in the reverse of that mode which the constitution recognized in the duties of the monarch, and the necessities of his office. He was the hereditary guardian of a settled constitution; it was his duty to protect life, and property, and freedom of opinion; all which, no doubt, he would gladly do—but his wishes were unavailing, when he delegated his authority to ministers, who were not his servants; who were not their own masters, but the servants of a faction which they dared not disobey.

LORD ALTHORPE concluded the debate of this night, in a reply to the last speaker.—It was idle, his lordship said, to assert that this bill was the first link in the chain of disturbance. Clamour had existed long ago, and had constantly increased, until it was raised to an irrepressible pitch by the declaration of the late administration. The present ministers had brought forwards, a measure for the purpose of removing or allaying this agitation. If, however, he thought that the bill would take away from the influence of the landed interest, he should feel himself guilty of a great dereliction of duty, in recommending it to the house. But he did not believe that the bill would have any such effect. On the contrary, he was persuaded that the landed interest would still enjoy a full and due proportion of weight in the election of members to serve in parliament.

An adjournment now took place till the following evening, when

SIR ROBERT INGLIS stated, as a leading objection to the bill, that it would place funded property, which had been vested by the authority of parliament, in a perilous situation. This property now amounted to eight hundred millions; but if representatives were returned under the provisions of the ministerial measure, it would be either expunged entirely, or sweepingly reduced. The honourable baronet observed, that, on whichever side he viewed the subject, he saw danger. There was hazard in resistance; but there was still greater in concession. If he looked back upon this country for a series of years, he saw that it had enjoyed, and still continued to enjoy, a greater share of happiness and comfort than had ever been experienced by any people in the world. He saw that all this national prosperity and individual comfort was enjoyed under that reviled and calumniated system which it was now proposed to destroy. Of one thing he was convinced, that for all those blessings we had not been as thankful as we ought. As a nation, we had not discharged our duty to the Author of the mercies we had received;

and, if the reform bill, with all the evils with which it was pregnant, should come upon us, it would be a just punishment for our ingratitude.

After several speeches on both sides, but with little novelty of argument from either,

LORD JOHN RUSSELL rose, to enter into some explanations with respect to the principle of the bill. Whether they took away this or that number of nomination boroughs signified little, he said, for the time was passed when any government could be carried on by means of their operation. There was no longer any ground for defending these boroughs on the plea of utility, as opening a door of admission to persons of distinguished ability. That point had been greatly exaggerated, and all the advantages afforded by them, would be better obtained by popular representation. He should now describe what would be the workings of the bill when passed into a law. There would be one hundred and sixty-six members for the counties of England and Wales; the only difference in the constituency being, that copyholders and tenants at will, to the amount of fifty pounds a year, would have the right of voting, and that twenty-seven counties would be divided, each division to return two members. This arrangement was not likely to be democratical in its results, or attended with danger to our institutions. It had been said, that in some counties the members would be exclusively returned by either the agricultural or the manufacturing interests. This might be true, but it was not their duty to oppose interest to interest, or to dwell on topics tending to excite disunion. It should be considered, that landed gentlemen were returned for several manufacturing towns. There would also be one hundred and twenty members returned by places with less than ten thousand inhabitants. It had been ascertained that the ten-pound freeholders would average about one-third of the householders of every town entitled to representation; therefore, it was rather hard to condemn the amount of qualification as being too comprehensive. Like Mr. Fox, he did not wish to see voters brought up in regiments to the poll; what he desired was, an independent constituency; and if the bill passed into operation, there was no reason to doubt, that men would be returned, of sound views, and entitled to public confidence. If, however, notwithstanding the tide of concurrent circumstances in favour of reform, parliament should sanction the continuance of a system, the fertile source of abuses and corruptions, that permission could only serve to bring confusion and discordance into the body of the state.

SIR CHARLES WETHERELL attacked ministers and their measure of reform in a mingled strain of sarcasm and argument. The noble lord, by whom the bill was introduced, had endeavoured, by calculations, to explain the number of persons who would be entitled to vote in each of the new boroughs; and found that the amount would only be one-third of the population. These electors were to be composed of ten-pound householders, so that this bill, which was to be at once final and satisfactory to the people at large, came to this, that a man who did not rent a ten-pound house would have no vote. The new caste that this bill would create, was not compatible with the march of the age. In ancient times, there had been a rule, that no man should pass from one caste to another; and a man whose father was of one profession, could not migrate into another. But was such a rule to be introduced now, in the nineteenth century, and in so enlightened a country as Great Britain. This system of Indian castes was not consonant with British feeling; and a measure which established it by breaking the people into classes and subdivisions, hitherto unknown to the constitution, never could be a favourite with the people. The present measure, however, not only created a new right of suffrage, but destroyed the old, for it got rid of the scot and lot right of voting, by which two-thirds of the male population of England were disfranchised. Further division of counties under the proposed bill, instead of strengthening, would weaken the landed interest, by giving undue influence to the manufacturing and commercial towns and districts, where the same property that gave a right of voting to the borough electors would qualify them to vote for that part of the county in which the property lay. The learned member then went on to contend, that the bill, instead of being conservative of the church, would destroy its buttresses; and when these were gone, religion itself must fall; as had happened in France, where, since the revolution, it had become a matter of discussion, whether they should not get rid of that ancient formula, called church worship, on a Sunday. The learned member next animadverted on the conduct of those who regarded reform as a means rather than an end; who held it up to the people as what would found a cheap government, give a stimulus to trade, furnish employment for the poor, and supply every kind of comfort from one end of the kingdom to the other. But look again at France; she had her revolution and reform to an extent as great as any Frenchman could wish; she had changed her dynasty, placed a citizen king on the throne, abolished hereditary nobility, and destroyed the right of primogeniture. But had these things produced an enlarged trade, or given a spring to industry, or

increased the comforts of the poor? Ask the people of Lyons, and let their conduct be a comment on the fallacious prospects held out by the advocates of reform. It might be admitted, that ministers had redeemed their pledge of introducing a bill equally effective with the last : but in what sense was the present measure to be so considered ? Jacobinism was the principle of both the one and the other. The late bill presented the principle of radical equality ; a vice which his Majesty's ministers had faithfully and accurately transfused into the composition of the bill now before the house.

MR. STANLEY, the secretary for Ireland, said, that ministers had introduced some alterations into the bill, in order to meet the objections which had been made to some of the details in the former plan ; but that in no respect had they deviated from the leading principle and features of the original measure. It was an irrefutable argument, that, as society advances, and the march of intelligence proceeds, government must conform themselves to the times in which they live. God forbid that we should not have sufficient prudence to go forward, not with the mob, but with the country ; to remedy evils and complaints, which, as they are not to be suppressed, and cannot be concealed, must finally prevail. Who can doubt that delay must be dangerous ? Who is there that does not see that we have now the option, whether this change, so necessary and so demanded, shall be effected in a peaceful and quiet state, or whether it shall occur amid scenes too awful to be depicted ?

SIR ROBERT PEEL concluded the debate, in a speech of considerable length, the principal part of which was a vindication of himself, and the administration to which he had belonged, from the charge of inconsistency. After going over the same ground which the former speakers on his side of the house had taken, he said—" I oppose the bill, because I repel all participation in the responsibility of such a measure ; and I vote against the second reading, not that I expect to be successful in my opposition, but because I will enter my solemn protest against one of the greatest and most precipitate changes ever made in a constitution, the best that ever existed in the annals of history. You should well consider the effects of the change you are about to accomplish on the three parts of the empire. Look well to the proportions established at the Union. Ireland may be disturbed from other causes ; but the reform bill, in its principles, and the course pursued by the government, in agitating the question of the relative proportions of the representative system, by disarranging all the relations of the empire, tends to produce extensive dissatisfaction and discontent. I speak not in the spirit of hostility to ministers, when I implore them not to suffer this house to

separate, without proclaiming the course they mean to pursue with respect to the proportionate representation of Ireland. Do they, or do they not, mean to yield to the demands of the Irish members? I repeat, my opinions are decidedly opposed to the bill. I expected that the present ministers would bring forward some plan of reform; but I was not prepared for so extravagant a measure as this, and that within six weeks after taking office, while the country was agitated by the events of the French revolution. I will continue my opposition to the last, believing, as I do, that this is the first step to a series of changes, which will affect the property, and alter the constitution, of the country; prove fatal to the House of Lords; and bring on a train of unknown, but direful consequences. On this ground I take my stand, not opposed to a well-considered reform of any of our institutions which the public welfare may require, but opposed to this proceeding, because it tends to root up the feelings of respect towards the constitution, which are founded perhaps in prejudice, as well as in higher feelings of veneration for all our institutions. I believe that the proposed reform will do this; and I will wield all the power I possess, to oppose the gradual progress of that spirit of democracy to which the advocates of this bill are of opinion that we ought to submit; for, if we make these concessions, it will only lead to establish the supremacy of that principle. We may, I know, make the democratic principle supreme; we may be enabled to establish a republic, full, I have no doubt, of energy, and not wanting in talent; but, in my conscience, I believe fatal to our mixed form of government, and ultimately destructive of all those usages and practices which have long preserved to us a large share of peace and prosperity, and which have made and preserved this the proudest kingdom in the world."

A division took place at half-past one on Sunday morning, when there appeared for the second reading of the bill 324, and against it 162; thus giving a majority of two to one in favour of ministers.

The house then adjourned till Tuesday the 17th of January, 1832.

Thus stood this great political question, in its third stage of gestation, and with a certain prospect of passing through the lower house of parliament; while a variety of opinions was formed, respecting its chance of success

in the lords. In this state of doubtful concern, the public journals and political associations loudly demanded of the King and his ministers, an immediate increase of the peerage, in order to force the bill through that house. At any other time, and under different circumstances, the very suggestion of such a proceeding would have gone far to raise alarm; but in the present case it has had the contrary effect, and ministers were from day to day exposed to very severe attacks for delaying to gratify the popular wish. That the King has an abstract right to make peers, cannot be denied; but this prerogative, like that of withholding his assent to any bill passed through parliament, is necessarily bounded within constitutional limits; for if it were not, the independence of the upper house, as an integral branch of the legislature, would be at an end. The only instance upon record of such a stretch of power, happened in the reign of the last of the Stuarts, and under the Tory administration of Harley, Earl of Oxford, who very narrowly escaped judgment for it, when the Whigs came into authority. It seems, therefore, rather extraordinary that an example should be drawn from this portion of our national history, as a precedent to justify the adoption of a desperate measure, which, at a future period, may be applied to the most dangerous purposes. But it would be improper to pursue any further, a subject which, being as yet only a matter of conjectural speculation, cannot properly come within the province of the historian.

The state of the British empire at this time was extremely gloomy. The abstract of the net produce of the revenue, made up to the end of the one, when compared with that of the preceding year, exhibited an enormous decrease of near four millions; thus affording

indubitable evidence of a decay of internal trade and foreign commerce. Heavy complaints were made of the reduced condition of the shipping interest; and various branches of trade and manufacture were either altogether suspended, or so depressed as to be no longer able to furnish employment to the families that had hitherto derived from them a comfortable subsistence. Much of this distress was attributed to the encouragement given to foreign productions, over those of our own country; and in some articles it appeared that native industry was completely paralyzed, by the importation of French commodities, sold at prices which defied all competition.

The agricultural interest was far from being in a more prosperous condition; and what served to render it worse was, the perpetual fear under which the landed proprietors and their tenantry lay, of having their barns, stacks, and even dwellings, destroyed by midnight incendiaries. Though the prosecutions instituted at the close of the preceding year, against offenders of this cast, and the executions which followed, had the effect of checking, they could not extinguish the crime, which broke out again, to an awful extent, in the ensuing autumn and winter. Melancholy and frightful as all this was, the state of things in Ireland was infinitely more deplorable. That unhappy country, long doomed to suffer under the self-inflicted curse of national unions and seditious confederacies, presented, at the close of the year, scenes of horror and malignity, the mere reports of which were sickening to the feelings of humanity. Every fresh arrival brought from thence the intelligence of conflagrations, robberies, and murders, committed in open day, by bands of marauders and assassins sworn to destroy all persons who were the marked objects of vengeance. The extirpation

of the protestant establishment, and the dismemberment of the empire, now constituted the avowed end and aim of the political agitators, and their deluded followers. Catholic relief having ceased to be the popular cry, catholic ascendancy took its place; and to attain this object, a general combination was formed, to annihilate the protestant interest, by the refusal of the farmers and peasantry, every where, to pay tithes. Even the peaceable and well-disposed part of the community, who would readily have discharged the legal demands made upon them, were withheld from doing so, by threats of being visited with destruction if they dared to disobey the orders issued by the leaders of faction. Thus, in a short time, the protestant church was reduced to the most abject humiliation. Many of the clergy were in a state of absolute want; and one dignitary had his brains beaten out, in returning home from visiting his sick parishioners.

In addition to these political and national calamities, Great Britain was now visited by the pestilential cholera, which made its appearance in the month of October at Sunderland, to which place it was brought from Hamburgh. At first the medical practitioners at Sunderland, and others sent thither by government, endeavoured to persuade the public, that the disease was neither the Asiatic cholera, nor infectious. The delusion, however, could not last; all the symptoms described as characterizing the malady in the north of Europe, where its Eastern origin was never doubted, were observed in the victims at Sunderland, and those of the different places to which the pestilence was speedily communicated. Newcastle, Gateshead, Shields, and the whole populous coal-field of Durham and Northumberland, in the space of a few weeks, gave evidence to the contagiousness of the malady. From

the English border, the cholera passed into Scotland at the end of December, soon after which it entered the northern capital; and, at the time when this page was composing, the dreaded evil had commenced its ravages on each bank of the Thames—at Limehouse, Rotherhithe, Southwark, and Lambeth. The following is a general description of this dreadful disease, as it appeared at Sunderland:—In acute cholera there are no symptoms more remarkable than those relating to the fluids of the body, as the tears, the bile, the blood, and the watery discharges of the stomach and bowels. During the most torturing attack, and when the cramps have wrung the patient to the expression of apparently feminine weakness, the eye of the sufferer is always dry, and his agony cannot find utterance in tears. His voice also, being impaired in the progress of the complaint, sinks to a whisper, and at length dies away into a melancholy moan. The derangement of the function of secretion, which prevents the effusion of tears, appears to be established in a variety of organs; for the liver ceases to form bile, and the kidneys refuse to discharge urine. The changes which the blood undergoes are no less extraordinary. From the commencement of a severe attack of cholera, the circulating fluid manifests a strong tendency to become darker in colour, and thicker in consistence, than in its natural state. Gradually approximating to blackness, and to the thickness of syrup, it may trickle forth from the veins in drops, or in a sluggish stream, and then coagulate into a uniform mass like jelly, with scarcely a trace of the serous fluid common to health. The history of the progress of this frightful disease, from its first appearance on the Ganges, near Calcutta, in August, 1817, is extremely curious. In one year it crossed Hindostan, travelling, in two lines,

with more or less rapidity, according to circumstances, till its arrival at Bombay, in August, 1818, and at Madras, in October of the same year. Afterwards, pursuing its course towards the south, it arrived at Ceylon in 1819; and in the same, and the two following years, it spread itself through eastern Asia, and the islands of the Indian Ocean. Its first step towards Europe, was crossing the sea from Bengal to Muscat, where it appeared in 1821, with such virulence, that the living did not trouble themselves to bury the dead, but, sewing the bodies up in a mat, they turned them adrift in the harbour. From Muscat it travelled to Persia and Bussora; and, from the latter city, directed its course towards Syria, where it arrived in 1823, and then seemed to threaten Europe. However, by one of those incomprehensible changes so common with the cholera, its onward course there stopped; it disappeared completely in Turkey, where no precautions had been taken to prevent its propagation, while it struck off in another direction towards the north; and, after ravaging, for some years, Persia, and the Russian territories south of the Caucasus, it crossed those mountains in 1830, and appeared in Astracan, and the neighbouring provinces, where, for seven years, they had taken the most anxious precautions, to prevent its approach. From Astracan it spread through Russia, following, with astonishing rapidity, the course of the Volga; and, after ravaging Poland, Austria, and Prussia, it has now appeared on the coast of the German Ocean and the north of England, threatening central and southern Europe.

It appears from official reports, that, from the 13th of June to the 18th of October, the cholera had appeared in 2,962 places, where the total number of persons attacked was 335,711. Of these, 150,020 had recovered; 151,734

had died ; and 32,257 still remained under medical treatment. The disorder had ceased in 1,001 places, and made its appearance in 125 others. At Cairo and Alexandria, it had carried off 30,000 Egyptians in twenty-four days.

Amidst the alarm produced by this fearful visitation, another cause of disquietude arose, on the discovery that the horrible crime of Burking, as it is now called, had, for some time, been carried on to an unknown extent, in the metropolis. Public anxiety had indeed been excited about three years before, in consequence of the trial and execution of an Irishman, named Burke, at Edinburgh, for the murder of three persons, whose bodies he sold to certain lecturers on anatomy in that city. From what came out on that occasion, it appeared that the medical professors there readily purchased whatever subjects were offered them, without asking any questions of the venders. Thus, a premium being held out for murder, it was not to be wondered that wretches should be found hardened enough to embark in the infernal trade.

The disclosures made at Edinburgh naturally induced suspicions, that a similar traffic was carried on in London ; but no proof of the fact appeared, till the autumn of the present year, when a man and woman, named Edward Cook, and Eliza Ross, were apprehended, on the charge of having made away with an aged female, and sold her body to one of the hospitals, or to private lecturers. After several examinations, both prisoners were committed, the principal witness being their own son, a boy of about twelve years of age.

While this shocking affair formed the subject of public observation, four men were taken into custody, on suspicion of having murdered a poor Italian lad, who earned a scanty living by exhibiting some curious animals about

the streets. These men, John Bishop, James May, Thomas Williams, and Michael Shields, were all known to be professed resurrectionists, as the phrase is; and in that line had succeeded in disposing of bodies at the anatomical schools without difficulty. In the present case, however, the cautious vigilance of the curators of King's College, in Somerset House, being awakened by some singular appearances about the corpse offered for sale to that establishment, the police were called in, and the fellows were secured, after a stout resistance.

The account they gave of the manner in which they came by the body, proved to be wholly false; and, after a lengthened examination, three of them, Bishop, Williams, and May, were committed for trial; Shields, who, it appeared, was only employed to carry the body, being discharged, to appear as a witness. Meanwhile, active inquiries were set on foot, and so strong was the connected evidence on the trial, that the three culprits were convicted: but it being ascertained that May was not present at the murder, his life was spared; and the others, after making a full confession of that, and some other murders, were executed. Cook and Ross were tried afterwards, and the latter received judgment of death; her paramour being acquitted, for want of proof that he took any active part in the atrocious deed.

The following is a summary of the population returns made to parliament, in pursuance of the excellent act proposed and carried into effect by the late Mr. George Rose, before the union of the two kingdoms:—

From this document, it appears that the population of England was, in 1801, 8,331,434; in 1811, 9,538,827; being an increase of $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In 1821, 11,261,437; being an increase of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.: and in 1831,

13,089,338 ; an increase of 16 per cent. The increase within the last thirty years has been 4,757,904. The summary of the annual value of real property in England was £49,744,622 ; in Wales, £2,153,801 ; and in Scotland, £6,652,655 ; making a total of £58,551,078. The population of Wales stands thus : in 1801, 541,546 ; in 1811, 611,788 ; in 1821, 717,438 ; and in 1831, 805,236. That of Scotland as follows : in 1801, 1,599,368 ; in 1811, 1,805,688 ; in 1821, 2,093,456 ; and in 1831, 2,365,807. The summary of Great Britain is as follows : in 1801, 10,942,646 ; in 1811, 12,609,864, being an increase of $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; in 1821, 14,391,631, an increase of 14 per cent. ; and in 1831, 16,537,398, an increase of 15 per cent. In 1801, the number of females in Great Britain was 5,492,356 ; in 1811, 6,269,650, an increase of 14.15 per cent. ; in 1821, 7,254,613, an increase of 15.71 per cent. ; and in 1831, 8,375,780, an increase of 15.45 per cent. The population of London, or rather the metropolis, was, in 1801, 864,845 ; in 1811, 1,009,546 ; in 1821, 1,225,694 ; and in 1831, 1,474,069 : males, 684,441 ; females, 789,628.

The last returns to the House of Commons that have been published, state the amount of poor rates collected in England and Wales within the year, to have been £8,111,422, being an increase of 8 per cent on the previous year.

The external relations and dependencies of the British empire, exhibit an aspect no less portentous than the parent country. In the month of November, intelligence arrived, of the discovery of a conspiracy among the negroes of Tortola, one of the Leeward Islands. The object of the insurgents was, to obtain their liberty, and become masters of the soil ; for the accomplishment of which, they resolved to put all the whites to death, and burn the principal buildings. On the night of the 4th of

September the work of destruction was to commence. After having got rid of their masters, the slaves intended to set up a republic, and all communication with the island was to be prohibited, at least for a time. Financial arrangements had even been made, for the first year of their political existence. No sugar estate on the island was to be dismantled, nor were the growing crops to be any where injured. Information having been made of these designs, in consequence of quarrels among some of the parties, the whole plot miscarried, and the ringleaders were punished.

The other islands were at the same time in a high state of ferment and alarm. Government having sent out orders for the limitation of the hours of labour, the negroes in Trinidad and St. Lucia soon became restless, and refused to work longer than they pleased.

In Jamaica, a serious difference arose between the House of Assembly and the Governor, Lord Belmore. At the meeting of the local parliament on the 25th of October, his excellency concluded his speech in the following remarkable language: "I earnestly recommend you to apply yourselves to the public business with that diligence and industry which I have already had occasion to acknowledge, avoiding all useless and irrelevant discussion, and pursuing steadily the great object of all our labours—the welfare and prosperity of Jamaica."

This dictation inflamed the assembly, by whom it was considered as a gross insult and breach of privilege.

In consequence of the resentment thus provoked, the Governor was recalled, and General Sir James Kemp appointed in his room. Previous, however, to the arrival of the latter, Jamaica became the scene of insurrectionary movements, which had long been anticipated.

On the 20th of December, the slaves in the parishes of St. James, Trelawney, and Portland, on the north side of the island, refused to go to their work, and, immediately assembling in large numbers, proceeded to set fire to some of the plantations. On the 30th, martial law was proclaimed, the several corps of militia were called out, and Sir Willoughby Cotton, commander of the forces, proceeded with three or four hundred troops of the line to Montego Bay, accompanied by Commodore Farquhar in the *Blanche* frigate. Meanwhile, conflicts had taken place between the militia and the insurgents, who lost on one occasion about twenty-five killed, on another about ten killed, and twenty wounded, with the loss of only two whites. The negroes were dispersed both times; notwithstanding which, the militia corps found it expedient to retire to Montego Bay, as there was reason to apprehend that considerable bodies of insurgents were collecting in various other quarters. The seasonable arrival, however, of General Cotton had the effect of suppressing the insurrection, at least for the present. Two of the negroes were executed under sentence of a court-martial, after which a proclamation, containing the offer of a general pardon, except to ringleaders, was issued; the consequence of which was, that numbers of the blacks came in, tranquillity was partially restored, and several families that had fled for refuge returned to their habitations. Above twenty plantations were devastated by fire, and the houses of the proprietors entirely destroyed during this short insurrection; which, it is to be feared, is only the prelude to more dreadful horrors, not only in that fine island, but in all the other valuable colonies of Great Britain, in the western world.

APPENDIX.

In a compilation of this description, some inaccuracies are unavoidable; besides which, subsequent inquiry will elicit additional circumstances necessary to be told. To correct the former, and give place to the latter, the following pages are devoted.

The statements of the education of Prince William-Henry, require a little explanation. His mathematical tutor was the Rev. George Waddington, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, who sailed with his Royal Highness to America and the West Indies. When the establishment of the Prince, as Duke of Clarence, took place, Mr. Waddington was appointed domestic chaplain. He died in 1824.

The nautical instructor of Prince William-Henry, was the late Admiral Knight, then first lieutenant of the Prince George.

What is said of Sir Charles Morrice Pole's having been lieutenant of the *Andromeda* when that frigate was commanded by the Prince, we have learnt is incorrect. That officer was senior post-captain by several years to his Royal Highness. He sailed, however, with the Prince, as a friend, and afterwards became treasurer of his household. This excellent man died soon after the accession of his royal patron to the throne.

Sir Richard Goodwin Keates did not, as stated, succeed Lord Hood in the governorship of Greenwich Hospital. On the death of that noble veteran, the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Admiral Colpoys, to whom succeeded Admiral Keates, who continues to enjoy it, but without the addition of a peerage, to which he has, at least, full as strong claims as some who have lately received the distinction.

Of the early habits of Prince William-Henry, Mr. Carpue, the anatomist, recently related the following anecdote:

It was some years ago, Mr. Carpue's business, as a surgeon, to examine some recruits near Bushy, and to certify his opinion before a magistrate. His Royal Highness, the Duke of Clarence, who happened to sit on the bench, put several questions touching the physical condition of fitness and unfitness for military service. The papers having been signed by his Royal Highness, Mr. Carpue was surprised at the excellence of the handwriting, and said as much to the Duke. He replied with his usual good humour—"Why, the fact is, that when I served as a midshipman, (and you must know, I served my regular time,) I was obliged to keep a log-book, and my captain had a particular aversion to bad writing. I thus acquired a habit of writing legibly, and I also acquired a habit which has been of the greatest use to me through life, and that is, of recording the occurrences of the day. Every night of my life I make it a rule to set down (as I used when a midshipman with the log-book) the occurrences of the day, and, by so doing, submit my actions to the scrutiny of a self-examination. The habit is a good one. I have tried, and proved it."

A short account of the following circumstance has already been given; since which a more detailed narrative having appeared, it is deemed proper to give it insertion in this place:—

Soon after Prince William Henry entered the navy, he had a warm dispute with a Mr. Moodie, an officer of marines, and neither being disposed to yield, words became high, and attitudes menacing; when the marine exclaimed, "If 't was not for your coat, Sir, I would give you such a basting as you little dream of." Upon which his Royal Highness replied, at the same time pulling off his jacket, "My coat, Sir, shall never bring a stain upon my honour," and, advancing towards his antagonist, gave him the signal for combat; which, continued with equal violence, till an order from a superior officer obliged them to desist. His Royal Highness then took the hand of his combatant, and, shaking it cordially, said to him, "Thou art a brave fellow, though a marine, and henceforth rely on my friendship?"

Some years after this occurrence, his Royal Highness when cruising with Lord Leveson Gower, in the North seas, put into the Long Hope in the Orkneys, and finding that the late Captain Richan of the navy, was at Kirkwall, proceeded thither on a visit to him. His Royal Highness remembering that his quondam friend, of the marines, was a native of that country, inquired for him, and, finding he was then there, expressed a wish to see him, which was readily granted by Captain Richan, who despatched a boat to bring him from a neighbouring island. The interview was gratifying to all present. His Royal Highness inquired minutely into Mr. Moodie's affairs, and finding that he needed the assistance of a friend, he settled an annuity upon him, until he could procure him an appointment. Many were the favours subsequently bestowed upon the brave marine by the kind-hearted Prince, who has since given so many proofs of his impartial judgment, and consideration of the claims of neglected merit.

The following instance of royal condescension, related in a private letter from Dr. Burne, the editor of an ecclesiastical work, was inserted lately in the Glasgow paper, and copied from thence into the London journals. The circumstance occurred last November.

"Having communicated to Mr. Young, Lord Melbourne's private secretary, the wish of the publishers of Wodrow's Church History to have the next edition of it dedicated to His Majesty, as the first had been to George I., and that His Majesty would be pleased to accept a copy of the work; in the course of a few days I had an answer from Mr. Young, stating, that His Majesty had most readily acceded to the petition to have the work inscribed to him, and that he had ordered Sir Herbert Taylor to say, that His Majesty would be glad to see me at the Pavilion at Brighton, and to receive the copy of the work which had been prepared for his Majesty's acceptance. Accordingly, I went down; and after breakfast, on Tuesday, I had a card from Sir Herbert Taylor, stating that his Majesty would see me at half-past one. We drove up to the grand entrance: afterwards, the chief page made his appearance, and conducted me into a large and handsome saloon, where he told me to walk about for a few minutes, till his Majesty was disengaged. I did so, and, the page having soon returned, told me that Sir Herbert was in the ante-room, and was ready to introduce me to his majesty. On going in to Sir Herbert, (who is a very tall and gentlemanly-looking man, a general officer,) he told me, that kneeling was dispensed with, and that I might just do as I would in the presence of any nobleman or gentleman of rank. He led me into the presence-chamber, a large and elegantly furnished room, announced my name, and then retired, leaving me thus alone with the King.

"His Majesty was sitting at a table, but rose and returned my obeisance just in the way that one gentleman is accustomed to do to another. I then walked up to him, with my volumes in my hand, and addressed him nearly as follows—"I have the honour of laying before your Majesty a work, which was published more than a century ago, and dedicated to George I. This is the second edition, with a life of the author, notes, and other additions; and your Majesty has here a specimen of the progress made in typography in the west of Scotland. The work is a national one, and has been highly approved by Mr. Fox, Mr. Chalmers, and others, as a correct statement of facts illustrative of a very important period of our history. I have the honour of requesting your Majesty's acceptance of this copy, and to return your Majesty the best thanks of the publishers, and of myself as editor, for the condescending manner in which your Majesty has been pleased to permit the new edition of the work to be dedicated to your Majesty."

"By this time his Majesty had got hold of the volumes, and was busily employed examining the title-page, contents, plates, &c., with all which he expressed himself much pleased. On turning up successively the engravings of Sharpe, Claverhouse, Lauderdale, Carstairs, &c., remarks were made on each, and the King seemed to be very well informed in their respective histories. 'The work,' he said, 'contains, I think, the history of the persecutions in Scotland in the days of Charles II.' 'Yes, please your Majesty, it is the history of the eventful period from the Restoration, in 1660, till the Revolution in 1688.' 'A very valuable record it must be,' he added.

"After speaking a little more upon the subject of the book, the King asked, 'Pray, sir, what situation do you hold in Scotland?' I told him, 'Please your Majesty, I am one of the parochial ministers of Paisley, so well known for its manufactures, and where, I am sorry to inform your Majesty, there is at present very great distress among the operatives, 2000 or 3000 of whom are out of work.' His Majesty asked the cause; when I adverted to several causes, such as the unsettled state of the public mind, occasioned by the delay in the settlement of the reform question, the prevalence of disease on the Continent, and the restraints on trade by quarantine, the trade being overdone with us, and the periodical results of speculation,' &c. 'Have you many Irish in Paisley, and are they mostly Roman Catholics?' I told him we had a great many Irish families, that the greater part were Catholics, particularly those from the south and west; that it had a good many Protestants and Presbyterians from the north; that there are many poor amongst them, and that we felt the burden of supporting the poor of a country which has no system of poor-laws for itself. His Majesty said, 'That is a great evil, and something must be done by the legislature; but they must take time to deliberate on a matter of such importance. The ministry are determined to do nothing rashly, and they have had many things to occupy their thoughts of late.' I remarked, that his Majesty's attention must have been for some time past very painfully engaged with these matters; when he said, in reply, that he personally had not felt the burden so much, but that those who were his advisers had certainly done so. I expressed a hope, that, with the blessing of divine Providence, matters would soon be brought to a bearing, and the nation's best interests effectually secured; to which he most cordially assented.

"There was also a good deal said on the subject of the state of the poor in England, the objections to the theory and management of the poor laws, &c.; and his Majesty shewed that he understood the subject well, and entered fully into the objections against the system of paying the price of labour out of the rates, and thus degrading the labouring population of England into paupers, and representing those moneys as given to the support of the poor, which are, in fact, appropriated to far different objects. 'You manage these things better in Scotland.' 'Please your Majesty, our poor do not expect so much as the English poor. I observed a case in court, the other day, where the dispute lay between 5s. a head for each member of the family, and 2s.; and the judges decided on a medium, 3s. 6d. In Scotland, in place of 12s. or 15s. for this family of poor applicants, the sum allowed for one member of it would have been held quite sufficient.'

"'In Paisley, you are all, I presume, of the church of Scotland?' 'Please your Majesty, we have many Presbyterians, dissenters from us; yet our dissenters differ from us almost wholly on one point, the law of lay patronage. Our standards and mode of worship are the same. We have also an episcopal chapel in Paisley, to the building of which, if I am not mistaken, your Majesty was pleased to contribute; and I have to inform your Majesty, that, when I left Scotland, a few weeks ago, the erection was in progress, and it will be a very great ornament to the town.' 'Your people in Paisley, I think, are mostly engaged in weaving?' I told his Majesty, that weaving was our great staple; that about a hundred years ago Paisley began its career as a manufacturing town; that, successively, linen, thread, silk, gauze, and cotton, in all its forms, had been prominent; that, like Spitalfields, we feel deeply the depression of trade; yet that, unlike Spitalfields, we had not so near us the wealth and the resources of the metropolis. I noticed, however, the great kindness of the London committee in 1822 and 1826, in contributing to our fund to the extent of 16,000*l.* or 18,000*l.* The King spoke of there being no predisposition to riot either in Englishmen or Scotsmen, and this led us to notice the causes of excitement, such as poverty, evil advisers, bad publications, &c. After again thanking his Majesty for the honour done me, and expressing my fear of having intruded too long on his time, his Majesty replied very graciously, and I retired.

"Sir Herbert was still in the ante-room, and asked me to take a sight of the apartments in the palace, a suite of rooms, said to be unequalled in Europe for splendour: they exceed all my ideas of magnificence; yet, to attempt a description, would be vain. I saw in one of the rooms the full-length portrait of the King, in which Wilkie is at present engaged, a very exact likeness; and, as his Majesty had been sitting, or rather standing, for it in the morning, I saw him not in the morning costume, but in full-dress: he has not the portly (august) appearance of George the Fourth, yet reminds me of a respectable and good-looking country gentleman. After regaling myself with these interesting sights, I bade adieu to the palace."

The following anecdote, which ran the round of the papers soon after the accession of his Majesty, though incorrectly told in the original edition, wears the face of being genuine in substance, and therefore merits a place in this collection:

Prince William, while yet an officer of inferior rank, in passing over London Bridge, one sharp day in winter, observed a squalid-looking

figure, with scarce a rag to cover him from the inclemency of the weather. On eyeing him closely, his Royal Highness recognized in this woe-begone object an old shipmate, who had sailed with him in the *Prince George*, and had been a sort of favourite. The royal youth stopped, made himself known to the poor fellow, and went with him to an old clothes' shop near Welclose Square; where he rigged him from top to toe. The amount of the Jew's charge was three pounds fifteen shillings,—but here the Prince, in his haste to perform a good action, never once reflected that he did not possess the means. Happening, however, to have a valuable gold watch in his pocket, he sold the case to the Israelite for five guineas, paid the bill, and gave the balance to his companion. This man afterwards, by the interest of his Royal Highness, obtained a quarter-master's situation on board an East Indiaman, in which service he realized property enough to retire, and settle for the remainder of his days in the parish of Stepney.

The economy of the Prince was no less commendable than his liberality; as an instance of which, the following fact is recorded :

A service of plate was delivered at the Duke of Clarence's house, by his order, accompanied by the bill, amounting to fifteen hundred pounds, which his Royal Highness deeming exorbitant, sent back, remarking, that he conceived the overcharge to be occasioned by the apprehension that the tradesman might be kept long out of his money. He added, that so far from its being his intention to pay by tedious instalments, or otherwise distress those with whom he dealt, he had laid it down as an invariable principle, to discharge every account the moment it became due. The account was returned to his Royal Highness the next morning, with three hundred pounds taken off, and it was instantly paid.

When his Majesty, as Admiral of the fleet, took the command of the squadron which was appointed to convey the sovereigns of Russia and Prussia to this country, his Royal Highness hoisted his flag on board the *Impregnable*, which had previously been the flag-ship of the late Admiral Sir William Young. It is the privilege of every Admiral to select his own officers, and, of course, on an occasion of so much interest as that here mentioned, innumerable were the applications made by naval officers, to have the honour of serving under the Royal Duke. His Royal Highness, however, with a generosity which did honour to his heart, refused to make room for any of his own friends, by displacing the officers left in the *Impregnable* by Admiral Young, saying, that though he had been obliged to supersede the Admiral himself, none of his officers should be disappointed of going on the enviable service for which the ship was destined. This act of generosity was also accompanied by one of great justice, which showed how well considered was his Royal Highness's kindness. An Admiral has not only the privilege of choosing his own officers, but also that of placing them in what order he pleases, without regard to their seniority on the navy list, making the junior first, if he thinks fit. The officers of the *Impregnable* had accordingly been placed in the ship by Admiral Young, without regard to the date of their commissions; but when his Royal Highness so considerably commanded these officers to be retained as his own, he very justly, at the same time, ordered them to take rank according to their seniority.

When the Duke of Clarence became Lord High Admiral, he chose for his private secretary, the Hon. Captain Robert Cavendish Spencer, third son of Earl Spencer, who rendered great assistance to his royal patron, in

effecting many useful reforms in the naval department. To Captain Spencer is attributed the Nautical Catechism, which obtained the name of the Ninety-nine Questions, and which, though not acted upon, was productive of some important results. During the illness of Sir William Hoste, Captain Spencer took the command of the Royal Sovereign Yacht, when the Lord High Admiral made his second visitation to the dockyards in 1828. Exemplary in all his conduct, he thought it right to read to the ship's company the service of the church; and his Royal Highness observed, that he had never heard it performed with more impressive eloquence; than on that occasion.

This gallant officer was cut off from the service of his country, at the age of thirty-nine, in the Mediterranean, on board the Madagascar frigate, of which he was the Commander, November 4, 1830.

In the early part of the year 1831, a gentleman left town for Brighton, where, passing along the Steyne, he met the King. His Majesty, with his usual frank urbanity, accosted him as an old acquaintance. "Ah, L——, how are ye? what brings you here? how long do ye stay?" L—— replied, he came to see a sick relation, and was obliged to return the ensuing day. "Pooh, pooh, pooh," said his Majesty, "you must dine with me first." "Please your Majesty, I am under the necessity of returning immediately." "Nonsense; come to-morrow. Sir Herbert, do you mind, L—— does not go away without dining with me." L—— whispered to Sir Herbert, that it was quite impossible he could avail himself of the honour, for he was deficient in a certain article of dress. Sir Herbert overwhelmed poor L——, by at once informing his Majesty of his reason for declining the honour,—namely, that he had no breeches. "Nonsense,—ceremony—stuff—let him come without, let him come without," said the King.

It has already been stated, that the Duke of Clarence was the early and liberal patron of the theatrical prodigy commonly called the "Young Roscius," whose portrait, engraved from the picture painted by the late Mr. Northcote, was in consequence inscribed to his Royal Highness. Since the death of the artist, the following anecdote has appeared.

One day, the Royal Duke, being left only with Lady ——, the Young Roscius, and the painter, and perhaps worn a little out of patience with the tedium of an unusually long sitting, thought to beguile an idle minute by quizzing the personal appearance of the Royal Academician. It is well known, that Northcote, at no period of life, was either a buck, a blood, a fop, or maccaroni; he soon despatched the business of the toilette, when a young man; and, as he advanced to a later period, he certainly could not be dubbed a dandy. The loose gown, in which he painted, was principally composed of shreds and patches, and might perchance be half a century old; his white hair was sparingly bestowed on each side, and his cranium was entirely bald. Thus loosely attired, the Royal Visitor, standing behind whilst he painted, gently lifted, or rather twitched, the collar of the gown; which Mr. Northcote resented, by suddenly turning, and expressing his displeasure by a frown. Nothing daunted, his Royal Highness presently, with his finger, touched the Professor's grey locks, observing, "You do not devote much time to the toilette, I perceive—pray—how long do you?"—Northcote instantly replied, "Sir, I never allow any one to take personal liberties with me; you are the first that ever presumed to do so, and I beg your Royal Highness to recollect that I am in my own house." He then

resumed his painting. The Prince, whatever he thought or felt, kept it to himself; and, remaining silent for some minutes, Mr. Northcote addressed his conversation to the lady, when the Royal Duke, gently opening the door of the studio, shut it after him, and walked away. Northcote did not quit his post, but proceeded with his painting. It happened that the royal carriage was not ordered until five o'clock; it was now not four. Presently the Royal Duke returned, re-opened the door, and said, "Mr. Northcote, it rains; pray, lend me an umbrella." Northcote, without emotions, rang the bell; the servant attended, and he desired her to bring her mistress's umbrella, that being the best in the house, and sufficiently handsome. The Royal Duke patiently waited for it in the back drawing-room, the studio door still open; when having received it, he again walked down stairs, attended by the female servant, who, on opening the street door, his Royal Highness thanked her, and, spreading the umbrella, departed. "Surely, his Royal Highness is not gone; I wish you would allow me to ask," said Lady ——. "Certainly, his Royal Highness is gone," replied Northcote, "but I will inquire at your instance." The bell was rung again, and the servant confirmed the assertion. "Dear Mr. Northcote," said Lady ———, "I fear you have highly offended his Royal Highness." "Madam," replied the painter, "I am the offended party." "Lady ——— made no other remark, than wishing her carriage had arrived; which soon happening, Mr. Northcote courteously attended her down to the hall; he bowed, she curtsied, and, stepping into her carriage, set off with the Infant Roscius. The next day about noon, Mr. Northcote happening to be alone; a gentle tap was heard, and the studio door opened, when, who should walk in but his Royal Highness. "Mr. Northcote," said he, "I am come to return your sister's umbrella, which she was so good as to lend me yesterday." The painter bowed, received it, and placed it in a corner. "I brought it myself, Mr. Northcote, that I might have the opportunity of saying, that I yesterday took a very unbecoming liberty with you, and you properly resented it; I really am angry with myself, and hope you will forgive me, and think no more of it." "And what did you say?" inquired the first friend to whom he related the circumstance. "Say! why, nothing; I only bowed, and he might see what I felt. I could at the instant have sacrificed my life for him: such a Prince is worthy to be a King!" The venerable painter had the gratification to live to see him a King.

The following is another instance of the handsome manner in which the Royal Personage could correct any trifling indecorum into which, from his frankness, he might chance to fall. Being once in a fashionable shop at Brighton, the Duke was struck with the entrance of three ladies in the dress of Quakers. While the two eldest were looking over some of the articles, the Duke addressed himself to the youngest, who was about fourteen, and said, "So, I see that thou art not above the vanities of this gay world." The fair young Friend said nothing, but the matron, under whose care she was, gave a look more expressive than words. The Prince felt it; and, immediately purchasing a handsome work-basket, respectfully asked the eldest lady for permission to present it to her daughter. The answer was mild, but laconic, "She will receive it, and thank thee, friend." The basket was accordingly taken, with the same courtesy as given; and thus the matter ended.

On the death of the late keeper of Bushy-park, the King, then Duke of Clarence, appointed his son, a young man, to succeed him, the office having

been in the family for many years. This young man had the misfortune to break his leg; the benevolent Duke visited him with consolations, and found him especially anxious about the care of the deer. "Well, John," said his Royal Highness, "don't fret about the deer; keep your mind easy, and I will pay daily attention to them; I will attend to your duty while you are confined; and mind you, do not get out too soon." Shortly after his recovery, the young man took to drinking; and the Duke, in order to cure him of the evil propensity, required his attendance every night at eight o'clock, and, if he appeared in liquor, reprimanded him on the following morning. The Royal kindness was, however, thrown away upon a worthless subject: since his Majesty's accession, the infatuated keeper has died from the effects of intemperance.

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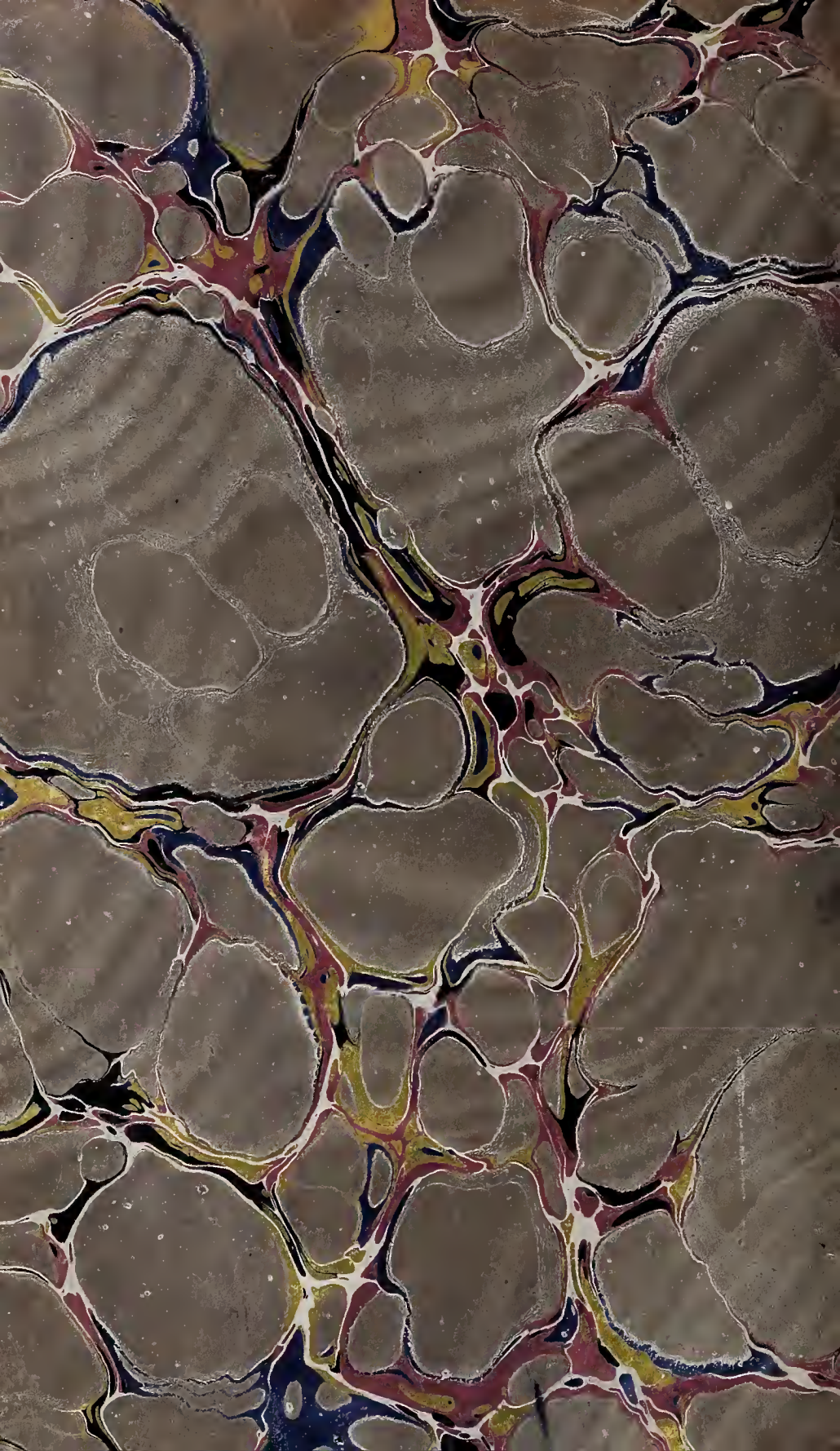
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